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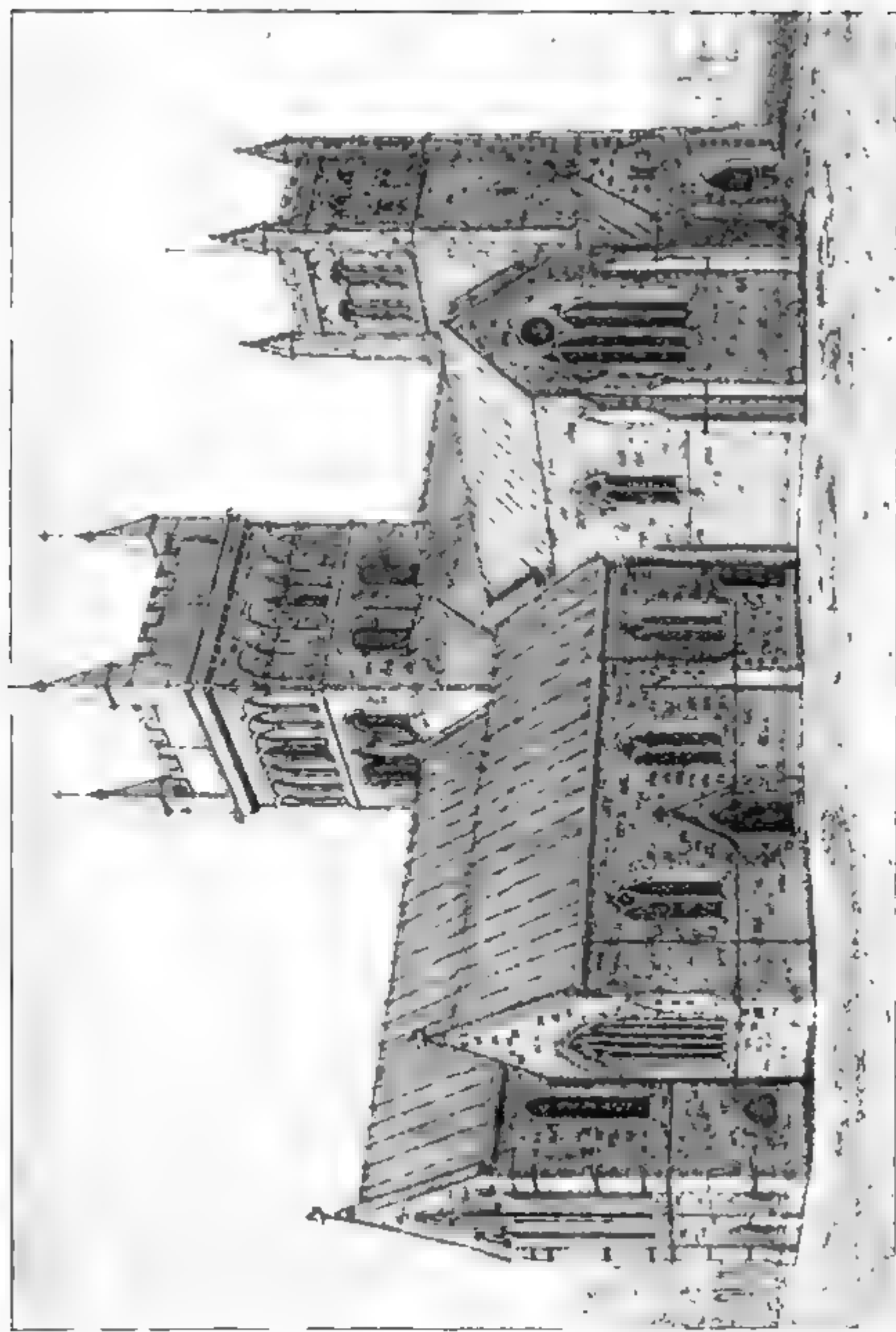


**A HISTORY OF  
WIMBORNE MINSTER.**









WPA 1914

WPA 1914

A  
HISTORY OF  
WIMBORNE MINSTER;

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SAINT CUTHBERGA

AND KING'S FREE CHAPEL AT

WIMBORNE.

*to the*



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## P R E F A C E.

**T**HE opportunity offered by the restoration of the Minster in 1855-57 for collecting materials for its history, was one the loss of which would have been a calamity. This work was undertaken in the autumn of 1857, shortly before the re-opening of the church, when abler hands had in effect declined the task, and it appeared likely that those who had been eye-witnesses of whatever had been brought to light would be allowed to disperse, and scatter their recollections of it to the winds, without any record being preserved.

The objects chiefly aimed at have been to give a correct account of the building as it now stands ; to place on record all that is known of its history ; to register the results of the late explorations, and to draw fair conclusions from them ; and to rescue from oblivion any collateral facts, unimportant in themselves, but indirectly bearing on the history.

How far any of these objects have been attained must be left to others to decide. Technical phrases have been avoided as far as possible ; the chapter on the organ, however, is an unavoidable exception. In explanation of the late appearance of the work it may be mentioned that it has been somewhat laborious, that it has been begun and finished in the midst of other occupations, and that it has been thought better to attempt a certain degree of com-

pleteness than an early publication. The chief sources from which materials have been drawn are,—Mr. Hutchins' MS. collections for his history of Dorset in the Bodleian Library, astonishing not more for their general accuracy, than for their enormous bulk and the twenty years' labour bestowed on them ; the MS. history of Mr. Nicholas Russell, apparently in his own handwriting, preserved among these papers ; other MSS. and books in the same library, in that of Winchester College, and in the British Museum ; fragments in the library at Wimborne ; the evidence of eye-witnesses ; and, most important of all, personal investigation on the spot.

The following are the names of those to whose advice and assistance this work is chiefly indebted :—

The Rev. J. L. Petit, and the Rev. J. E. Jackson, both distinguished antiquaries ; Mr. Thomas Wyatt, under whose care the church has been restored ; Mr. Hopkins, author of the standard English work on the organ, and organist of the Temple Church ; and lastly, the Rev. C. Onslow, without whose help and encouragement the work might never have been brought to a conclusion.

Oxford, May 29th, 1860.

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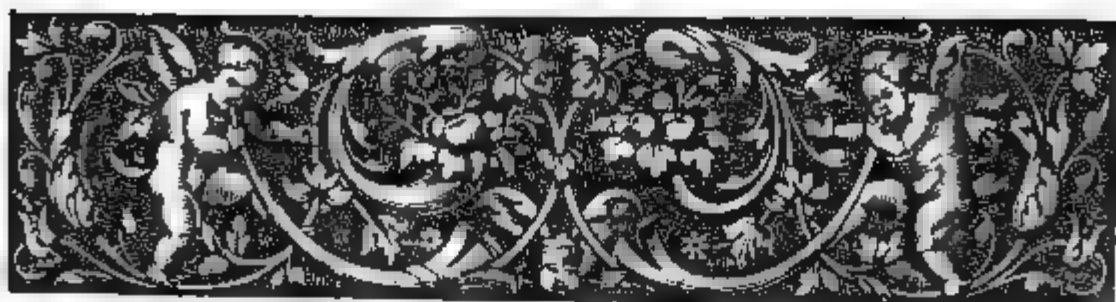
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## WIMBORNE MINSTER.

### CHAPTER I.—*General History.*

**I**T may be thought that in studying the history of a building which like Wimborne Minster brings down to our own time the ideas, the habits, and the religion of generations which have long ago returned to dust; which in its increase tells us of times when men gave of their best to the service of the sanctuary, and in its poverty of times when they delighted to beat down the carved work thereof with axes and hammers; it may well be thought that we could not fail to light upon the names of men distinguished either for good or evil, cropping out here and there from the common stratum of mediocrity, and standing forward either to the ornament or the disgrace of the body to which they belonged. We might then acknowledge their claim either to the gratitude or the execration of their posterity: we might say something of the piety of those who first reared the temple in this pleasant valley, and passed their quiet life in its shade; something of the diligence and love of those who sustained it; something of the selfishness of those who neglected it, and of the infamy of those who robbed it; something, lastly, of the energy and good-will of those who have striven that their church should no longer be a disgrace to the valley which it adorns, nor a place where the

worshippers while they listened to the word of life might inhale the vapours of death. All these, foremost in the ranks of those whose figures rise to our imagination as we tread its aisles, who for ages past have knelt before its altars or snored in its pews, would deserve notice at the hands of any who should aspire to be an accurate chronicler of Wimborne Minster. But except in the case of the last, whose praises, as they yet live, we may not sound here, we have, we may almost say, no materials to work upon. It is alike difficult to discover either an indigenous worthy to be proud of, or a satisfactory villain to lash. The names of the builders of the present church have disappeared, as well as those of its benefactors; so that except an almost mythical foundress, one or two deans, and that noble and universal doer of good, the Lady Margaret, "our Lady the King's Moder," as the churchwardens call her, the list of those to whom the church owes anything is well nigh empty. Generation after generation has lived and died, and left no memorial; and though the sacred precincts are crowded even to repletion with the "mute inglorious Miltons" of past centuries, we look in vain for records of any whose good deeds have survived them long enough to be matter of history, or whose fame has extended beyond their own small circle. Wimborne must console itself with the reflection that "Happy is the nation whose annals are dull."

Of the origin of the town we know nothing. It may be that the Romans were its first founders, as we hear of it first under their rule as a military station. It appears in the "Itinerary" of Antoninus, as Vindogladia, being placed in his 12th Iter between Sorbiodunum (Salisbury) and Durnovaria (Dorchester). In the lists of the anonymous geographer of Ravenna it is corruptly written Bindogladia, and in the work of Richard of Cirencester, Ventageladia. The distances from other stations at which it is placed in the Itineraries correspond sufficiently well with the site of the present town, the position of which gives credit to the

tradition of its Roman origin which has always prevailed. The hill called in Saxon Baddanbyrig, and now known as Badbury Rings, overlooks at some distance the valley of the Stour. A very large fortified encampment, the circle of which is still perfect, occupies the top of this hill; it matters little whether Romans or Britons made it; certain it is that Romans occupied it, for a Roman road runs direct thence to Old Sarum, another station of importance. At some three miles or more below this encampment a smaller stream, now called the Allen, but whose proper name is the Wynburne, runs into the Stour; and just above this confluence, between it and Badbury, is seated the town of Wimborne. Such a combination of a bold and commanding hill for a fortified summer station, with a convenient spot in a sheltered and well-watered valley near at hand for winter quarters, is generally found to be just what the Romans sought for in founding a military station; and no doubt was their inducement to establish one here. There are no records of the state of the town under the Romans, nor are there any visible remains of their architecture. It has been conjectured that the Minster stands on the site of a Roman building; but we must own that a small piece of what appears to be Roman tessellated pavement existing under the present floor of the nave, and dubious assertions that traces of Roman work exist in the parts of the walls below ground, are the only evidences to be adduced.

The river Stour approaches the town from the north-west, and runs round its western and south-western sides; while the Wynburne, or Allen, coming from the north or north-east, runs in a moderately straight course down the opposite side of the town, and meets the Stour just above Canford, or, as Leland calls it, Aleyn Bridge. The peninsula thus formed offered an excellent site for monastic buildings, the founders of which usually required in the position of their establishments the same advantages which the Romans sought for their winter quarters. On this spot, near the apex of the peninsula, soon after A.D. 700, Cuth-

berga, sister of Ina the reigning king, and daughter of Kenred a former king, of the West Saxons, founded a nunnery. The fact is variously recorded by different authorities. An ancient collection of notices of the foundations of various castles and abbeys, to be found among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum (Cod. 261, Art. 27, fol. 107), says,<sup>1</sup> "In the year of our Lord 720, Cuthburga, sister of Ina king of the West Saxons, built an abbey at Wynburne." Henry of Huntingdon writes,<sup>2</sup> "About this time (i. e. the time of king Ina), Cudburh his sister established an abbey at Wineburne. She had been espoused to Egferd king of the Northumbrians, but separated from him during his lifetime." The "Annales de Derlye," in the Cottonian collection, have,<sup>3</sup> "In the year of our Lord 715, Saint Cuthbritha established a religious society of virgins in Wineburne." The "Historia Aurea" of John de Tinemuthe, in the Bodleian library, says,<sup>4</sup> "In the year of our Lord 718, Saint Quinburga and Saint Cuthburga (sisters of Ina king of the West Saxons), flourished; who founded a religious house at Wynburne." The Saxon Chronicle mentions it in 718, but does not say it was founded in that year.

The story of Saint Cuthberga has many counterparts in the history of her time. She was espoused to Egfrid, or, as he is elsewhere called,<sup>5</sup> Osric, king of Northumbria; of whom just enough is recorded to show that he was anything but a desirable husband. So ill-matched were the pair, that very soon Cuthberga, having obtained a divorce, exchanged married for monastic life; taking refuge first at Barking in Essex. She afterwards came to this place to found a nunnery, as abbess of which she passed the rest of her days in religious exercises, and at her death was

<sup>1</sup> "Anno Dñi vccº xxº Cuthburga soror Ine regis occidentaliū Saxonū apud Wynburne abbatiam construxit."

<sup>2</sup> "Circa hoc tempus (Inæ scilicet regis) Cudburh soror constituit abbatiam apud Wineburne; quæ data fuerat Egferdo regi Northumbrorum, sed eo vivente separata."

<sup>3</sup> "Anno Domini dccxv Sancta Cuth-

britha construxit Monasterium virginum in Wineburne."

<sup>4</sup> "Anno Domini dccxviii Sancta Quinburga et Sancta Cuthburga sorores Inæ regis West-Saxonum claruerunt, quæ monasterium apud Winburnam construxerunt."

<sup>5</sup> Speed.

enrolled among the ranks of the Saints. Her memory was celebrated yearly on the 31st of August.<sup>6</sup> Of Cuthberga's nunnery not a vestige now remains. No part of the present church can belong to so remote a date as her's. Nor can we decide with certainty the exact site of her buildings. Leland says that tradition placed them where the dean's house then stood: and as we have no evidence against that tradition, it may be sufficiently near the truth for us.

The top of one of the church towers is the best place for taking a survey of the peninsula, and conjecturing what extent of ground was included in the precinct of the nunnery or college. In some meadows called the Leas, a short distance south-west of the church, we find almost the only vestiges of it remaining, and even these are nothing but marks of foundations, some apparently belonging to an enclosure of domestic buildings, others to long boundary walls, with ditches, extending down to the river. At the lower part of these meadows there is a small circular pool, no doubt used as a stew or preserve for fish, and higher up is a larger fish-pond, at some distance from the stream. Both these have evidently communicated with the river. Such contrivances for securing supplies of fish were almost invariably attached to conventual buildings, whenever the neighbourhood of a stream rendered them possible. There is also an artificial circular mound in the meadow, possibly raised as a place of safety for cattle or implements in case of floods. If the nunnery was at Dean's Court (which is situated to the east of these meadows, between them and the Wynburne stream), no vestige of it can possibly exist; for every trace even of the Dean's house which succeeded it has been swept away, and replaced by a modern square brick mansion belonging to the Hanham family. It is impossible to say with certainty whether the whole of the area between the two streams was included in the con-

<sup>6</sup> An Epistle and Gospel are assigned to this day in the Sarum Missal; also in

a calendar prefixed to the MS. of Wycliffe's New Testament in English (c. 1330).

ventual precincts; but considering the large space often occupied by the remains of religious houses of no greater note than this, there seems to be no reason to doubt that at some time or other, probably long after Cuthberga's time, the whole extent of ground south of the present church was covered by the college and its appendages.

Under the presidency of a royal abbess the nunnery probably grew to be a place of note. The first mention we find of it is in a letter<sup>7</sup> of Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, and nephew of St. Cuthberga, concerning the liberty of election granted to all congregations under his government; in which this liberty is said "to be granted also to the monastery seated by the river called Winburnia, over which the king's sister Cuthburga presided." The date of this letter is A.D. 705; which would seem to show that the dates given by the MS. authorities before quoted are too late by some years. The commencement of Ina's reign was probably as far back as A.D. 687; so that the foundation of the nunnery may with reason be put back to the year 700, or even before that.<sup>8</sup> Camden says,<sup>9</sup> that in the time of the Saxons it was a celebrated place, no doubt, because it retained at that time visible marks of Roman magnificence. A proof of the estimation in which it was held more than a century and a half after its foundation is to be found in the fact that<sup>10</sup> the church was selected as

<sup>7</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon. The letter is said to be taken from the Remembrancer's office in the Exchequer.

<sup>8</sup> This letter also affords evidence of the name originally belonging to the stream now called the Allen. The syllable Win, or Wynne, probably contains the whole of the name first given to it, the affix "burne" or "bourn" meaning in Saxon (as it does still) stream. This name is found in the Roman Vindogladia, whatever the remainder of the word may mean. It no doubt has some reference to the streams which are the chief feature of the place. Aberdugladia (Milford Haven) is an analogous case. Leland may also be quoted on this point. He says, "Winburn riseth a three miles by estimation above St Giles Winburne, . . . descendith a six miles lower down to Wadeford (or Walleford) bridg of four arches of stone

in the end of Winburne town, and so goith down thorough Isebroke Bridges, . . . and goith into Stour, by E.S.E. not much above Aleyn (i.e. Canford) bridge." Wimborne All Saints' and Upwinborn Monkton also lie near the head of this stream, and take their name from it. Perhaps Canford bridge may have been built by one Aleyn, or Allen, whose name afterwards was attached to the stream.

<sup>9</sup> "Saxonico sæculo celeberrimum fuit, nec alia, credo, de causâ, quam quod Romanæ majestatis præ se tulerit indicia." King Sigeferth is said to have killed himself, and to have been buried here.

<sup>10</sup> Of course not in the present church, which could not have been built at that time; but that is no reason against his tomb being found there, as the relics of so distinguished a Saint would no doubt have been preserved in any new building.

the burial-place of St. Ethelred, third son of Ethelwolf, elder brother of Alfred the Great, and fifth king of all England, who was mortally wounded in battle with the Danes at Meretun, or Morton,<sup>11</sup> in 871, and died at Wittingham (the latter place may perhaps be the same as Witchampton, near Wimborne). A sepulchral brass in the presbytery has always been supposed to mark the place of his burial, which brass, though on the clearest evidence it must be pronounced a gross forgery, is nevertheless a great curiosity. It represents the bust of a king, with crown and sceptre, and with the following inscription underneath in small Roman capitals :—

IN HOC LOCO QUIESCIT CORPUS STI ETHELREDI, REGIS  
WEST SAXONUM, MARTYRIS, QUI  
ANNO DOM. 873, 23<sup>o</sup> DIE APRILIS, PER MANUS DACORUM  
PAGANORUM OCCUBUIT.

“IN THIS PLACE RESTS THE BODY OF SAINT ETHELRED,  
KING OF THE WEST SAXONS, MARTYR ; WHO,  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 873, ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL,  
FELL BY THE HANDS OF THE PAGAN DANES.”

Now the first thing to be said of this brass is, that it cannot possibly, in its present position, mark the resting-place of King Ethelred, because the stone in which it is inserted lies immediately on the vaulting of the crypt, and consequently can have no grave underneath it ; but, as it may have been moved from elsewhere, this is but a slight objection. A more grave one is, that the brass is declared by a good authority to be that of a priest of the fourteenth century, the cross being retained, but the robe of the priest being etched over to represent ermine, and the crown and sceptre being inserted. The character of the etching shows that this was done in the middle of the fifteenth century. It must be confessed that the rather startling imposture thus revealed reflects but little credit on the society to whom the church belonged, and whose interest it was to multiply

<sup>11</sup> Probably a place called Martin, on the borders of Wiltshire, where there is an encampment, near the Roman road.



relics and shrines for the edification of the faithful. It may be unnecessary to remark that monumental brasses were not in use till some centuries after the death of King Ethelred, though there would be no difficulty in supposing his tomb to have been repaired, and a brass placed upon it in later times, if the brass in question were genuine.<sup>12</sup> It is a curious fact that the present inscription, which is on copper, and is not older than the seventeenth century, was substituted for an older one. This older inscription is still preserved in the library. It is cut on the back of what is apparently a piece of an old monumental brass. The inscription, which cannot possibly be earlier than the middle of the fifteenth century, corresponds with the present one, except in the date, which is here 872, neither, therefore, being right.

Edward the Elder, on succeeding to the throne of Alfred in 901, was opposed by his cousin Ethelwold, son of the above-mentioned Ethelred, who took possession of Wimborne and Tweoneam, i. e. Twineham (as Christchurch<sup>13</sup> is called in the Saxon Chronicle), but was soon obliged to abandon them by Edward, who posted himself at Badbury. Ethelwold, as Higden's "Polychronicon" informs us, fled from Wimborne in the night, taking with him a nun from the convent there. He escaped to Northumbria, where he found shelter and support; but was so hard pressed by Edward that he was compelled to take refuge in France, leaving behind him the lady he had carried off, who was then conveyed back to Wimborne by Edward. He afterwards made another attempt at invasion, but was driven back eastward, and finally routed and slain on the banks of the Ouse, A.D. 905.

<sup>12</sup> It is said, that when the vault of the Bankes family (which is under the part of the choir where the high altar of the original church stood) was enlarged some years ago, a skeleton more than 6 ft. long was found buried in the spot which would have been the place of honour, on the north side of the old high altar. Whether anything was discovered with it, or whether the remains were contained in any

coffin, this report saith not. It nevertheless rests on good authority. As the spot in question was entirely excavated for the vault, any further search is impossible. Can this skeleton have belonged to King Ethelred?

<sup>13</sup> This town, on the borders of Hampshire, about twelve miles distant from Wimborne, takes its name from the well-known Priory of Christchurch there.

Nothing is recorded of Wimborne or its nuns in the time of Alfred; but from the fact of its having been thus brought into note in the times of his immediate predecessor and successor, we may be sure that the reign of a prince so friendly to religion and literature was not the least prosperous part of the annals of the convent of St. Cuthberga. The nunnery having been at length dissolved, or fallen a prey to the Danes,<sup>14</sup> Edward the Confessor converted it into a house of secular canons, so that it became a collegiate church and a royal free chapel; for the church of Wimborne is mentioned in the Domesday Book; and mention is made of a deanery here early in the reign of King Henry III, in the charter and patent rolls of that reign, and in the *Historia Eliensis*, in Wharton's "*Anglia Sacra*." In the eleventh year of Edward II. the king, by his letters, declared it to be his free chapel, and, as such, the prebend and chapels belonging to it to be exempt from all ordinary jurisdiction, imposition, &c. and ordained that none should presume to encroach upon their immunities. This declaration was repeated 25, 27, 28 Edward III. In the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*" of Pope Nicholas IV, dated 1291, the dean's portion was valued at 40 marks, four prebends' portions at 15 marks each, the sacrist's portion at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  marks: total 71*l*.<sup>15</sup> Nicholas, Bishop of Chrysopolis, was a benefactor towards repairs of the church in 1384.

Little or no information comes to us from external sources of the state of the College of Edward the Confessor till the beginning of the sixteenth century. The notices above given, and the following references to the possessions of the church, are nearly all that is to be found. There is no record of the original endowment. In "*Domesday Book*" there is mentioned a small parcel of land belonging to it in "*Hinetone*," which may be either Hinton-Martel or

<sup>14</sup> Hutchins.

<sup>15</sup> Nicholson's *Hist. Library*, pt. III. chapter 3.

"*Decanatus de Wymborn*, 280.

"*Porcio Decani de Wymborn*, in eadem, *Kyngston & Shapwyke*, xl *m*.

"*Quatuor sunt prebende in ead. quarū*

*quelibet estimatur in xv m.*

"*Porcio Sacriste in eadem vj m. di.*

"*Summa lxxj li.*"

The *Valor* was made on account of subsidies to the Crown and pensions to the Pope.

Little Hinton. But it is probable that the bulk of its ancient possessions consisted of the great tithes of the parish, to which in after times several portions of tithes and small parcels of land were added by various benefactors, which can only be traced from some ancient grants, chiefly made after the dissolution. In the thirty-fourth year of Henry III. a patent was granted to the college for the chapel of Hinton. The rectory of Shapwick seems to have belonged to them very early; for in 28 Edward III. the Dean was empowered to give the advowson of that church, which was before "*de jure decanatus*," to the canons and college. In 41 Edward III. this free chapel held Shapwick, tithes in Kingston, Pimpern, Bradeford (Bryan), Kirchel, Holtes, and Hame (Hampreston). In 1 Richard III. they had also lands in Wilkesworth, and a manor, or part of a manor, at Leigh. In Henry VIth's reign a licence was granted to give lands in mortmain to the Dean. These may serve as examples of the only kind of mention made of the college in contemporary records, and thereby to show the very small part that it played in public affairs. The claims which the memory of this religious society has on our respect must rest solely on the good which they may have done in their time among the people of their own quiet valley, for they never had the necessity nor the opportunity of making for themselves a place in history. It would appear, from the number of the staff employed, that they could never have been in danger from any great superabundance of wealth; and this may perhaps partly account for the absence of any names of note from the records of the place, such as they are. The list of deans from 1224 is as follows. The deanery was in the gift of the king, who granted it by letters patent.

Martin Pattislee, or Pateshull, elected 6 Dec. 9 Hen. III. (1224). He was fourth dean of St. Paul's.

Ralph Brito, elected 12 Oct. 1229.

John Mansell, chaplain to king Henry III, elected Dec. 1247. He was provost of Beverley, in Yorkshire.

John de Kirkby, elected April 12, 1265. In 1286 he was promoted to the bishopric of Ely, and was buried in his cathedral, 1290.

John de Berwick, elected 1286. He died in 1312, and was buried under a grey marble tomb which formerly stood in the south choir-aisle of this church.

Stephen de Mauley, or de Malo Lacu, succeeded 2 July, 1312, but soon afterwards resigned.

Richard de Clare, 22 Aug. 1312.

Richard de Swinnerton, 7 Jan. 1334.

Richard de Merimouth, 1 April, 1338.

Richard de Kingston, 20 Sept. 1342.

Thomas de Clopton, 31 Jan. 1349. He died soon after.

Reginald de Bryan, 17 June, 1349. He was made bishop of St. David's the next year, and afterwards translated to Worcester, 1352, where he was buried, 1361.

Thomas de Brembre, Aug. 5, 1350, founder of "the great chantry," in the north transept of the Minster (1354). He was buried in the centre of his work, 1361.

Henry de Buckingham, 5 Oct. 1361.

Richard de Beverley, 20 April, 1367.

John de Carp occurs 1398. He died in 1400.

Roger Tortington occurs 1408.

Peter de Altobello, or Altobasso, an Italian, the king's physician, admitted 29 April, 1412. He seems to have resigned.

Walter Medford occurs 1416.

Gilbert Kymer, or Keymer, M.D. succeeded 1427. He was principal of Hart Hall in Oxford, 1411-1414, and in 1431 was made chancellor of the university. He died 1463, and was buried in Salisbury cathedral, of which he was also dean. The bell-tower of the Minster was built in his time, and he was a benefactor to the work.

Walter Herte occurs 1467.

Hugh Oldham succeeded 1485. He obtained this and many other preferments through being chaplain to Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby. He was made bishop of Exeter in 1504, and was buried in St. Saviour's chapel, built by himself, on the south side of the cathedral there. He was a benefactor to the vicars choral of Exeter and to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and founder of a free school at Manchester.

Thomas Rowthel occurs 1508.

Henry Hornby, S.T.P., chaplain to the Lady Margaret, and in 1509 executor to her will, in founding St. John's College, Cambridge.

Reginald Pole, son of Richard Pole, Lord Montacute, was made dean of this church in 1517, being then only seventeen years old. As his career is matter of history, it need not be repeated here. He seems to have had very little connection with this place. He died 18 Nov. 1558.

Nicholas Wilton succeeded 1537, and was the last dean, the college being dissolved in 1547.

Every one of these deans held some other church preferment besides his deanery,—in some cases a very large quantity. It appears that this, as well as most other appointments in the gift of the Crown, was usually given to some person in favour at court, or having a claim on the royal patronage, and not to anyone connected with the church in question.

The decanal seal bears the figure of a king in a long robe, a crown on his head, in his right hand a staff or sceptre, in his left an orb, and under his feet the arms of Edward the Confessor. This seal occurs, appended to deeds, in Dean Kymer's time, and no doubt was much more ancient.

Brembre's chantry was a foundation of some importance. We find that it had three or more priests attached to it, who formed a sort of corporate body, and possessed a common seal. The chantry was well endowed, if we may judge from the scanty records we have of it. Among its possessions were the following lands: two tenements called Chilbridge; three tenements and one cottage in Leigh (conjointly with the second prebend); nine acres of land in Kingston, and other property; which were granted to Thomas Reve and George Cotton in the first year of Queen Mary. The seal of the chantry is very fine; it bears a full-length figure of St. Cuthberga habited as an abbess, and bearing a crosier, under an elaborate canopy. The legend is:

S. CÔMVNE CÂTARIE THOME DE BREMBRE DE WYMB:

Redcote's chantry was the next in importance, but there is no record of its founder. A piece of land at the north side of the town still bears the name of Redcote's, and may probably have had some connection with this foundation.

Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby, in 1496 procured letters patent from her son, king Henry VII, to enable her to found a chantry in this church in honour of the Blessed Jesus, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin

Mary, and for the health of her own and her parents' souls, &c. But the foundation was not completed till after her death, when, by a tripartite deed between the executors (Richard, bishop of Winchester, John, bishop of Rochester, Henry Hornby, clerk, and others), on the first part, the dean and chapter of Wynburne on the second part, and the sacrist of Brembre's chantry on the third part, a new chantry was established at the altar on the south side of the tomb of John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, and Margaret his wife, the father and mother of the said countess; that is to say, in the south choir-aisle. Richard Hodgekynnes, B.A. was appointed the first priest, to be continually resident in the said college, in a house there set apart by the dean and chapter for that purpose, there to teach grammar to all comers, in the same manner as there was or should be used in the schools of Winchester and Eton, without any other perquisites than those appointed by the executors. He was also to celebrate mass daily, and to keep an anniversary day for the said countess on the 9th of July, with ringing of bells, &c; on which occasion 20s. were to be distributed yearly among the chaplains and servants of the church and to the poor. The following is the clause of the Lady Margaret's will which refers to the foundation of the chantry and school:—

“ . . . . Wher. we have licens of the said king our most dere son . . to establysh and found a perpetual chauntry of oon priest in the college of Wynburne, and to geve unto hym and hys successors lands and tenements to the yerely value of ten pound, we will, that if we founde not the said chauntry in our lyfe, that then our executors as soon as conveniently they may aftir our deces shall establishe and founde the said chauntry of oon perpetuall preest in the same college, ther to kepe continuall resydence, and teche frely Gramer to all them that will come thereunto.”

The last record of the church before the Reformation, dated 1534, gives the value of the revenues of the college as follows:—

Reginald Pole, Dean of the King's College.	£	s.	d.
Value of the deanery . . . . .	29	8	4
Richard Sparkford, incumbent of the first prebend .	15	6	8
John Starkey, of the second . . . . .	16	15	4
Thomas Miles, of the third . . . . .	15	13	4
George Lely, of the fourth . . . . .	12	10	10
Christopher Garnet, sacrist . . . . .	5	4	8
John Thomas, cantarist of Redcote's chantry . .	5	0	3
Brembre's, or the great chantry, divided between three chaplains . . . . .	22	8	4
Schoolmaster's chantry, Edward Leyborn, incumbent	9	10	0

Till the year 1440, it appears that the village of Hampreston was in some way connected with the parish of Wimborne; for we find that in that year a licence was granted to the people of Hampreston to bury their dead by their own church, instead of being obliged to bring them into Wimborne for burial as formerly.

The altars of the Minster appear to have been at least eight in number: viz. one (the high altar) in the choir, one in each choir-aisle, one in the crypt, and two in each of the transepts. Some of these had many ornaments belonging to them: no authentic list however remains. In the report of the goods of the church, dated 1547, it is stated that no ornaments of the church belonged to the college. The meaning of this perhaps is, that all the ornaments were the property of the churchwardens, as they certainly were afterwards. A list of crosses, candlesticks, censers, cruets, &c. has been published as having belonged to the church, probably on the authority of a written inventory said to have been found in the library with no title or date, and therefore assumed to refer to this church. This inventory is not to be found; but the following articles are mentioned among the goods of the church at the time of the dissolution: "One oyle box of sylver: one challyce of copper and gylt: two cruets of sylver: two paxes: one roode, copper and gylt, lacking one arme: three rings of sylver: two vyces of the sylver candlesticks: two rings of the same vyces," &c. There were also sundry ornaments belonging to Brembre's and the other chantries. Copes, albs, chasubles,



&c. are often mentioned in the accounts: they seem all to have been the property of the churchwardens, who pay for their repairs, as they do for the surplices after the Reformation. Margaret, countess of Richmond, gave to the church one cope of blue cloth of gold, and one of crimson cloth of gold, and one whole suit of vestments.

Having now gone through all the notices of this college to be found in contemporary writings, scanty as these notices are, it only remains to record its final extinction, which took place in the first year of Edward VI. (1547). The report of the state of the college at its dissolution, to be found in the Chantry Roll of that date, does not differ materially from that given above. It mentions, however, that four priests and four clerks, or secondaries,<sup>16</sup> were employed besides the prebendaries, to perform the duties of the church and of the three chapels of St. Peter's, Kingston, and Holt. All the holders of these preferments were summarily ejected, pensions being allowed to some of them, and the rest of the revenues being confiscated to the king. We happen to have, in the churchwardens' accounts, a curious record of the coming of the commissioners to examine the state of the college, and how they ate and drank at the expense of the parish. They made an inventory of the goods of the church, of which they took possession; and the effects of their visit are seen in entries of payments for taking down the rood, demolishing the altars, &c. The affairs of the parish seem to have been left in some confusion by the commissioners; for we find the churchwardens paying the expenses of the schoolmaster and others, who were sent to London with a suit to the Council, the cost of a charter obtained there, and that of two "soplycacions" or petitions to "my lord of Bedforde."

By a grant dated June 23rd, 1547, almost the whole of the manors round Wimborne, with the advowson of the rectory of Corfe Castle, and the free chapel of Kingston

<sup>16</sup> John Clifford, one of these secondaries, was likewise organ-player, at a salary of £3 6s. 8d.



annexed, together with the advowson of the "free Royal Chapel or College of Wynburne Minster," the deanery, all the prebends, and all the chantries within it, were given to Edward, duke of Somerset, to be held of the king by knight's service. The writer of the MS. history preserved among Hutchins' papers in the Bodleian Library sagaciously remarks on this spoliation: "This large grant only in this county shows the boundless ambition of this great man; and as many of these lands belonged to the church, this will best account for his extraordinary zeal for the Reformation, for which some historians have so much extolled him." Another account speaks of the site as "all that site of the College of Wynborne, with all the courts, orchards, and gardens;" seeming to imply that a considerable space was included within the boundaries of the college, and thereby giving some colour to our former conjecture as to its extent.

There are other grants of many small pieces of land belonging to the church, of no great importance. Among them is "a granary and garden in the town, an acre of land in Redcot's, a close of land and pasture, being 3 acres, given for lamps in the church, granted to Tho. Reve," May 18th, 7 Ed. VI. This piece of land, given by some former benefactor for supplying the church with lights, is often mentioned in the accounts, as well as a piece called the Bell-acre, given for the support of the bells. The latter piece retains its name, and remains the property of the church to this day.

The commissioners employed in the suppression of the college had recommended that the school established by the Lady Margaret, in connection with her chantry, should be continued, as it was of great use, and very much needed in the neighbourhood. But we do not hear that any steps were taken to retain the school (nor, indeed, do we hear in what way the services of the church were provided for) till in the fifth year of Queen Elizabeth (1562) the parishioners, by means of Lord Mountjoy, obtained a grant from the

queen of a great part of the property which had belonged to the former college. The property, as well as all the ecclesiastical rights, prerogatives, and spiritual jurisdiction<sup>17</sup> which had been possessed by the college, was vested in twelve governors, to be chosen from among the substantial men of the parish. The grant included tithes, lands, tenements, &c. in this and the adjoining parishes; also the school-house, and four priests' houses.

Out of these revenues the governors were bound to pay a rent of 40*l.* a-year<sup>18</sup> reserved to the Crown, to repair the chancel of the church, the school-house, and the priests' houses, and to provide three priests and three clerks for the service of the church. A presentment of the churchwardens for the year 1629, which will be found in the appendix, shows us exactly how long the governors attended to that part of their duties which relates to the priests' houses. One house only has remained till lately, having been pulled down when the new school-house was built, in 1851: the others were probably neglected and allowed to fall to pieces from the date of the churchwardens' complaint.

The school-house, which has now been removed to make way for a larger building, was built by the governors in 1573; and so well and solidly that it was by no means in a state of decay when it was thought necessary to pull it down. In that year a fresh settlement of the tithes was arranged, with the consent of the Bishop of Bristol,<sup>19</sup> who had a sort of visitatorial power over the corporate body, though the parish claimed an exemption from episcopal jurisdiction. The affairs of the churchwardens seem to have been looked into at the same time; for a detailed list of their sources of income and liabilities is inserted in the accounts of the same year.

<sup>17</sup> The spiritual jurisdiction of the governors, and with it the consistory or officials' court, has been recently put an end to by the act for the abolition of peculiars. The parish is now under the authority of the Bishop of Salisbury, the diocesan. Only one clergyman has been

appointed since the passing of that act. He is the first who has ever been episcopally inducted.

<sup>18</sup> This was soon after remitted.

<sup>19</sup> This county was, till the re-arrangement of the dioceses about twenty years since, in the diocese of Bristol.

The history of the church is from this time forward so much interwoven with that of the school, that it is impossible entirely to separate them. The governors take the place of the Dean and Chapter as the body who hold the greatest influence in the place, and arrange all matters connected with the administration of the church. It appears that the chapels of St. Peter in the town, and of St. James at Kingston, were suppressed about this time. There was formerly a church of St. Mary, which tradition places in the centre of the large square of the town, and almost within living memory remains of it existed on that spot. But this must have been desecrated long before the Reformation, and no doubt is the same as that St. Mary-house which we find repeatedly in the accounts as the church-house; where, as was usual in the middle ages, business connected with the church was transacted, feasts were held, and beer was brewed and sold for the benefit of the church. We even find that plays were acted there. In 1564 St. Mary-house was let to a tenant, and St. Peter's became the church-house; the latter, therefore, must have been desecrated before that date. It stood in the market-place<sup>20</sup> (at the north-west corner of the churchyard), and is now totally demolished. The chapel of St. James, at Kingston, is mentioned by the governors, in a document drawn up by them in 1657, as having been some time ago disused; they also say that they had appointed a lecturer for the market-day (Friday) in the town, instead of a priest for Kingston.

A terrible calamity befel the church in the year 1600. For many years before that date fears had been entertained for the safety of the spire, which crowned the central tower. As far back as 1547, masons had been sent for to inspect it, and repairs of various kinds had been made at intervals from that time to this. But things were getting worse and

<sup>20</sup> There are several curious-looking old houses round this market-place. The "George Inn" is of great antiquity. The

commissioners of Edward VI. appear to have "put up" here.

worse, notwithstanding that iron bars had been introduced to support it but a short time before ; and at last, on a Friday morning, the market day, when the church was more full of people than usual, perhaps to hear the lecturer, it fell. Strange to say, no one was hurt by it ; and equally strange, no direct mention of the disaster is to be found in the accounts, though we find collections made for repairing the ruins of the church, and for carrying away stones and rubbish during the next few years. Its fall is thus quaintly described by a contemporary writer, the Rev. John Coker : “ Having discoursed thus longe of this church, I will not overpasse a strange accident, which in our dayes happened unto it: viz. Anno Domini, 1600 (the choire being then full of people at tenne of clock service, likewise the streets by reason of the markett), a sudden mist ariseing, all the spire steeple, being of a very great height, was strangelie cast downe, the stones battered all the lead, and brake much of the timber of the roofe of the church, yet without anie hurt to the people ; which ruin is sithence commendable repaired with the church revenues : for sacriledge hath not yet swept away all : being assisted by Sir John Hanham, a neighbour gentleman, who, if I mistake not, enjoyeth revenues of the church, and hath done commendable to convert parte of it to its former use.”

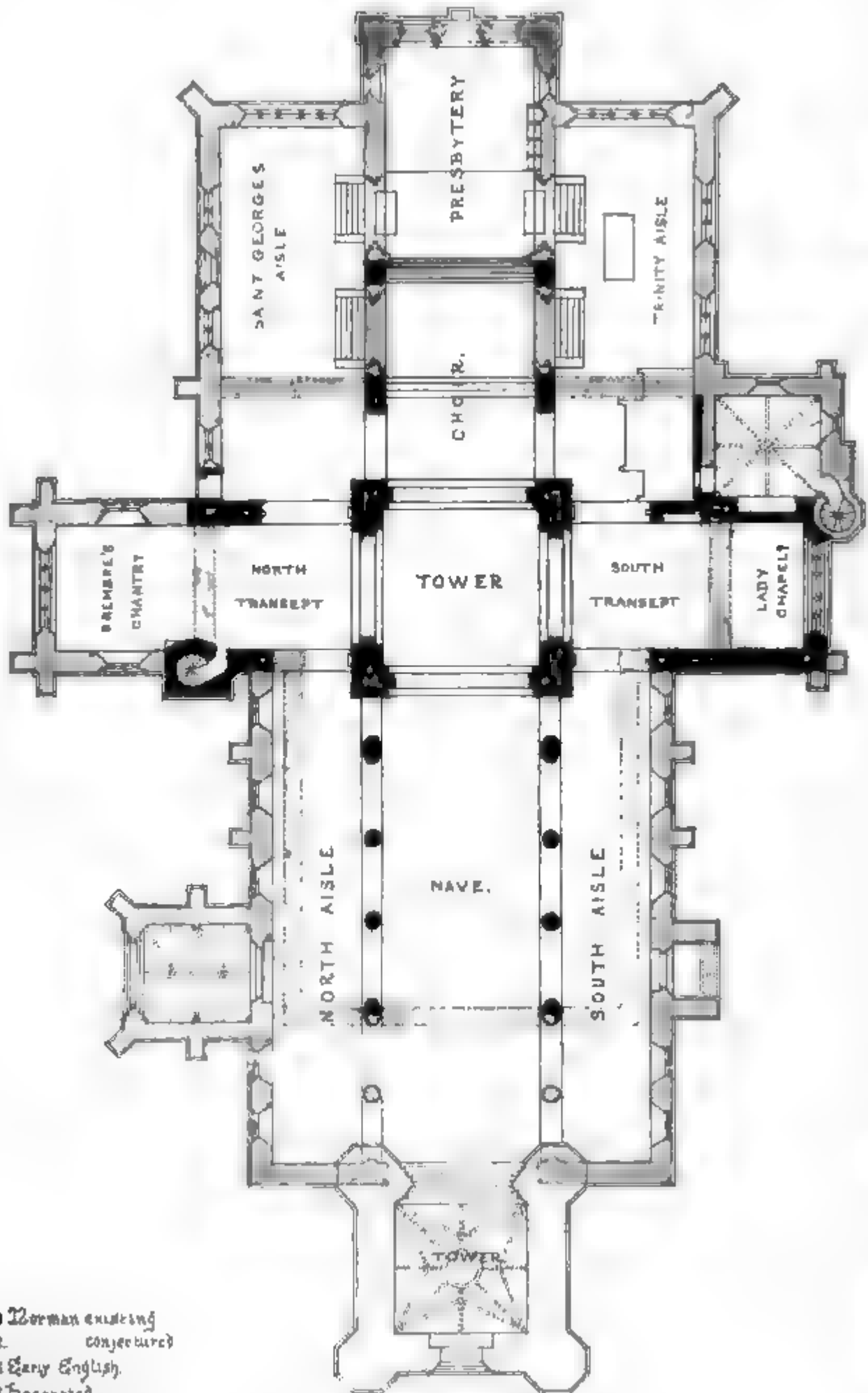
Few incidents worth recording occur in the history of the church and school after this time. The governors were obliged to surrender their charter to James I, and receive a new one ; and again, in the time of Charles I. they presented a petition to the king, in which, after a long statement of the affairs of the church, they say that they have lately added an organist, singing men, and choristers to the three priests and three clerks whom they are bound to maintain, but that a “ scire facias ” has been brought against them for exceeding their powers. They therefore ask for a new charter, to include these additions. On this occasion, as well as the last, a considerable fine had of course to be paid for the granting of the charter. Wim-

borne appears to have had its share in the troubles of the Great Rebellion; but being a quiet place, and not being very much mixed up with actual warfare, it probably escaped without severe injuries. The accounts tell us, indeed, of vast quantities of broken windows and pillaged lead; but they also tell us of the alacrity with which, when the poor king was dead, his arms were painted out, and the equal alacrity with which they were painted in again when the new king came back. So Wimborne probably went with the times, and did not go out of its way to oppose either king or protector.

From that time to the present the annals of Wimborne contain nothing worthy of note. General sleepiness, more or less negligent discharge of duties, and finally gross misappropriation of revenues, have done their work undisturbed for many generations, and induced a diseased condition of the state only to be remedied by heavy lawsuits,—a remedy nearly as bad as the disease; but now that the dangers have been weathered, there is no reason why a prosperity proportionate to the advantages it enjoys should not be attained by a town so pleasantly situated and so well furnished with things belonging to religion and education as Wimborne Minster.



# GROUND PLAN+



- Norman existing
- conjectured
- Early English
- Decorated
- Perpendicular

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 Feet.

The length of the choir and transepts has been satisfactorily determined during the restorations, the points where the end walls went across being marked by the stones which had formed the angles, and had been cut back level with the side wall when the extension was made. The curious Early Norman turret of the south transept thus originally stood at the angle, and not having admitted of being cut back level with the wall, now bulges out into the church in an uncomfortable manner. The section and elevation of the lantern and transepts will show this best. Of the lantern itself all above the great arches is Later Norman, and probably was finished very gradually, the upper part being quite transitional. The zigzag moulding does not once occur on it. The eastern termination of the choir was apparently flat, not apsidal, as the angular stones marking the cross wall were found here as in the transepts. The choir had one arch on each side next the tower-pier, opening into the side chapels, and two windows on each side beyond these arches, and at the same level, showing that the chapels could not have extended farther eastward than the point indicated in the plan. These windows, parts of which remain, cut off by the Early English arch inserted in their place, were round-headed, and richly ornamented with the zigzag moulding. They were uncovered during the restorations, but are now again covered by the plaster. The east end was as nearly as possible at the point where an Early English cluster of shafts on each side rises from the ground to support the cross-rib of the roof, over the principal ascent to the presbytery. The Norman eaves-course outside extends to this point.

The whole of the original church was probably covered by a flat wooden ceiling, at the level of the string-course above the tower arches. Such an arrangement was usual in Norman churches, and in a few instances still remains. One fact in favour of this supposition is, that the only access to the lantern (which, though not built at the time, was no doubt projected, as the strength of the piers shows)



was by the turret before mentioned at the angle of the north transept, from the top of the staircase of which a sort of wooden bridge leads among the beams of the transept roof to a small opening in the centre of the face of the tower, which is on a level with the gallery or triforium within. This bridge was doubtless intended to be out of sight, as it is by no means an ornamental feature, and would, in fact, have been completely shut out from view by the flat ceiling. A similar opening in each of the other faces of the tower gave admission to the roofs of the other arms of the church from the triforium.

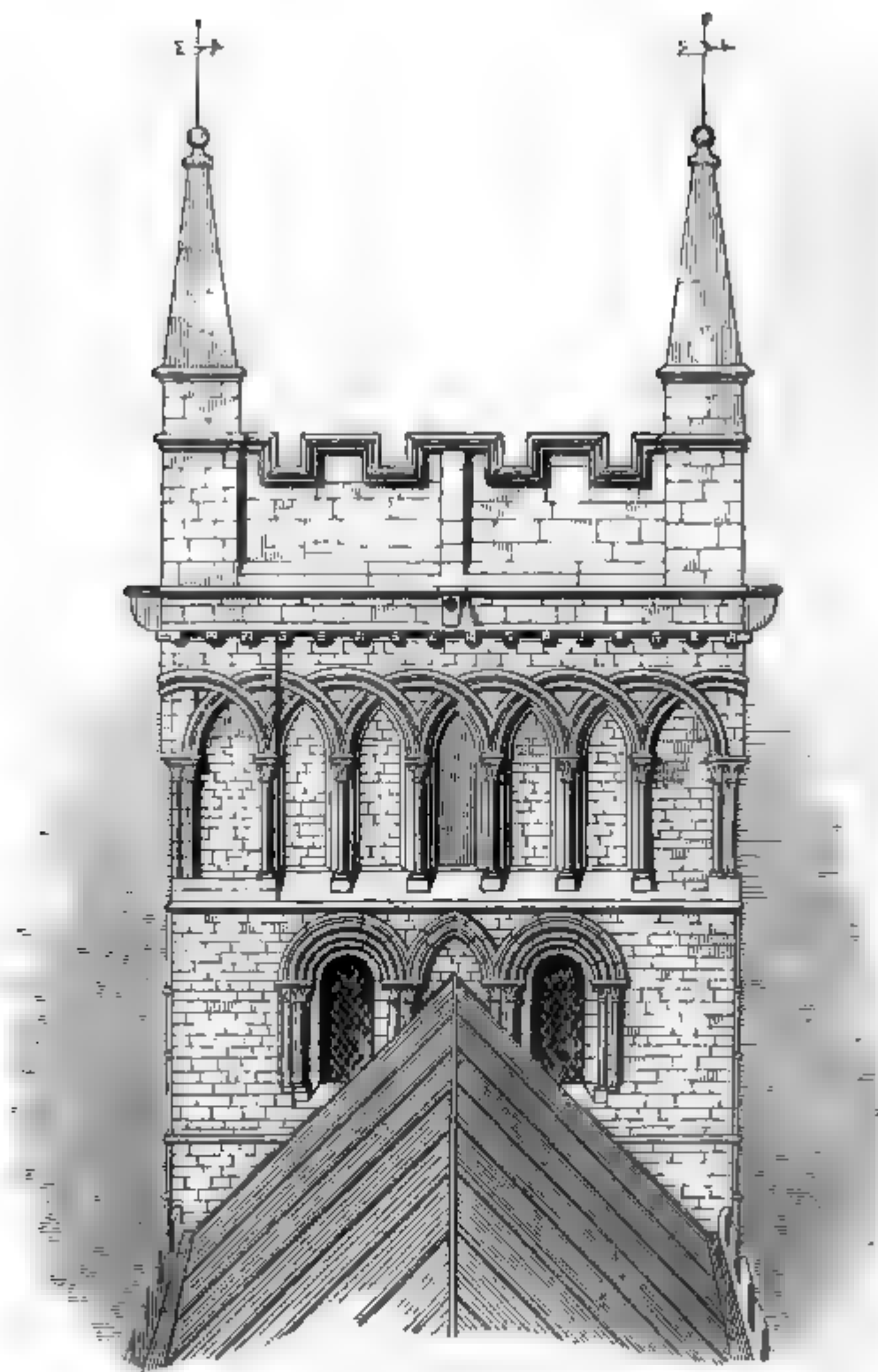
The side chapels of the choir now remain to be considered; but we can say very little about them, as their foundations have been entirely excavated for graves. Their length is fixed by the position of the before-mentioned fragments of windows in the choir, which must have looked out beyond their east wall; and the existence of Norman doorways at the angles of the present choir-aisles with the transepts would seem to prove them to have been of the same width as the present aisles. Part of the wall, that is to say, the inner half, at this point of the south aisle (against which the organ is now placed) appears to be Norman, as well as the door; the outer half, consisting of the later masonry of the vestry, having been built against it: and the two not having been thoroughly bonded together, a stick could be thrust between them for some distance when the wall was under repair. But the width thus given to the side chapels exceeds their length; an unusual shape, which may possibly be accounted for by supposing each to have had two small altars against its east wall.

At the southern end of the south transept a building coeval with the original church appears to have existed, the walls of which are now incorporated with the extension of the transept, made in the Decorated period. We are induced to assign this place to the Lady Chapel, as such a place is constantly mentioned, and no other position seems to suit it so well. The rough Norman masonry may

easily be distinguished on the outside, under the large south window: a Norman string-course, or weather-moulding, may also be seen running round the sides and end of the present transept. The building was probably lower than the rest of the church.

The dimensions of the building, whose shape we have now partly arrived at, were nearly as follows:—Length, about 110 ft.; across the transepts, 72 ft.; length of choir proper, 33 ft.; of nave, 47 ft.; tower, 30 ft. square; width of nave and aisles, about 45 ft. The remaining dimensions were the same as in the present building, except the height, which was about 30 ft. to the flat ceiling.

All the Norman pier arches remaining, except those of the central tower, are pointed. The masonry is good, neither fine-jointed, nor very coarse. There is very little sculpture, the capitals being extremely plain, except in the side arches of the choir, where they are rather rudely carved. These data, as we have no authentic record of the foundation of the church, would lead us to place it early in the twelfth century. The use of pointed arches, abutting as these do on undoubtedly early solid piers, is not common; they must be as early specimens as are to be found anywhere of this form of arch. The later work of the nave, which is ornamented with the chevron moulding set in a peculiar way, like projecting teeth, is probably of the latter part of the same century, and the lantern later still. The moulding referred to occurs, singularly enough, on the last arch of the nave of Romsey Abbey that retains the Norman character. The building, which had progressed very gradually, at this point changed to decided Early English. This fact serves to show that the work in question could not have been very much older than the transition to the new style.



WEST FACE OF CENTRAL TOWER.

CHAPTER III.—*The Existing Church.—The  
Lantern-Tower.*



CIRCUMSTANCE worthy of notice, in the consideration of the fabric of the church as it has come down to us, is the way in which the successive builders have made their parts of the work additions to, rather than alterations of the older structure. There are none of those extensive and costly improvements which, like the works of Archbishop Thoresby and others at York, replaced an entire Norman cathedral by one of a later and more elegant style; or, like that of William of Wykeham at Winchester, transformed, as if by magic, the rude and massive work of the twelfth century into the ornate and magnificent forms of the latter part of the fourteenth. Here all is plain and unpretending, and no piece of old building that could be retained has been thrown away. The reason of this is probably to be found in the comparative poverty of the establishment, and the absence of any celebrated names from its rolls during the times when church architecture flourished most. Reverence for the work of those who had gone before can hardly be assigned as a reason; for in almost every case where the will and power to make great alterations have been present, the older structures have been without scruple demolished to make way for the new style.

The church as it now stands is cruciform, and consists of a central lantern-tower, nave, and choir with aisles, transepts without aisles, western or bell-tower, north and south porches, crypt, and vestry or sacristy, with the library over it. These parts are of various dates, from the early part of the twelfth century to the middle of the fifteenth. It will be most convenient to commence our description with the central tower, and to take the other parts in order, with more or less regard to their dates.

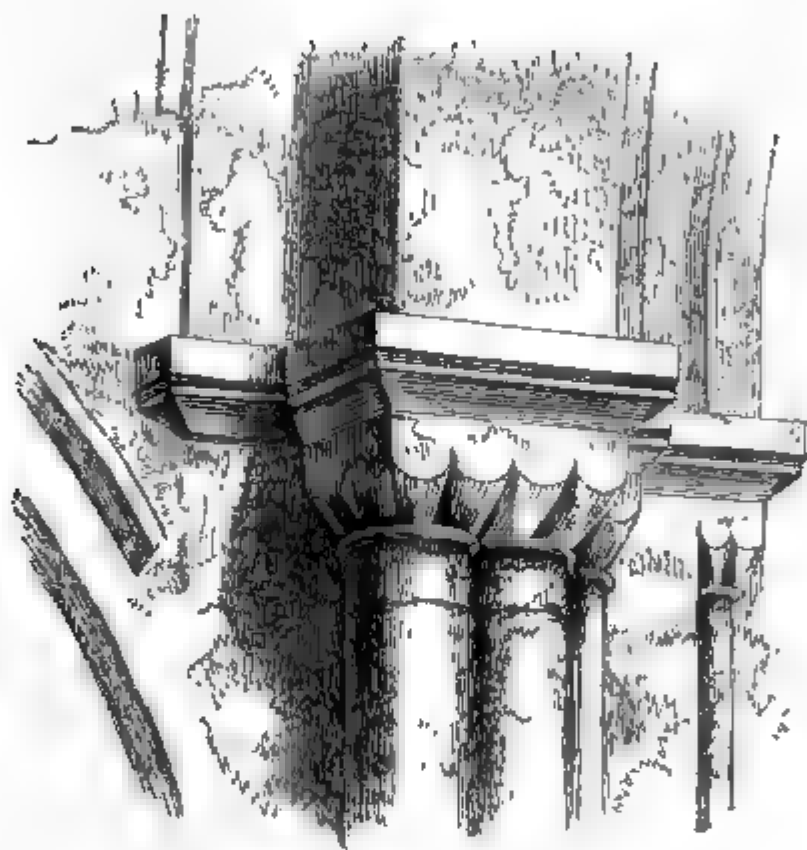
The lantern-tower, or "Spere," as it is still called by the old townspeople, is in four stories, of which all but the uppermost are open to the interior of the church. It was formerly surmounted by a spire, vulgarly reported to have been as high as Salisbury. If the tradition had said less than half as high as Salisbury, it would probably have been nearer the mark. The only record of the spire existing is found on the corporate seal of the governors, which in its upper half bears a rude sketch of the church, with only one tower shown, and that one ornamented with a spire. The sketch, however, is so extremely rude with regard to the remainder of the building, that no reliance can be placed on it for the shape of the spire. It may probably have been similar to that on Christ Church Cathedral at Oxford, which is of about the date to which this one is presumed to have belonged.

Of the Norman lanterns which still remain to us, (and those of Norwich and Romsey are almost the only ones,<sup>1</sup>) none has a more pleasing effect than this ; though the effect here is rather due to the excellent design and arrangement of parts (together with the fact, as it has been well suggested, that the parts are here brought nearer to the eye) than to the ideas of boldness and grandeur which strike us as we gaze up into those lofty recesses. Well did the writer of the MS. history to which we have before referred remark, with a good taste singular in his day, that "this lanthorn would, if well repaired, make a magnificent appearance ;" for the effect produced by the clearing away of whitewash from the walls and Purbeck marble shafts, and the removal of the organ, has amply justified his conjecture.

There can be no doubt that the lower story of this tower, with its four massive piers and arches of two plain orders, is part of the original building. The piers have pairs of shafts supporting a single broad order of the arch, with single shafts at the sides supporting the other order of

<sup>1</sup> That of Winchester Cathedral, the grandest of all, has been shut out from view for two centuries by a ceiling.

which it consists. The capitals and bases are very plain ; but the effect of the pier and spring of the arches is by no means unpleasing, the idea of strength and supporting power being well brought out. The top of the south-eastern pier is given in the accompanying engraving ; as the choir is somewhat narrower than the nave, one of the side-shafts supporting the outer order of the arch is omitted, the wall being brought forward to supply its place.



NORMAN CAPITALS. TOWER-PIER.

The remainder of this tower consists of, first, a dark triforium or gallery in the thickness of the wall, a clerestory with two windows on each side giving light to the lantern, and a belfry story shut out from the church. The triforium has two broad and shallow pointed arches on each side, with a small grotesque head between them, each pointed arch inclosing four small round ones, with shafts of Purbeck marble and well-carved capitals, some plain, others with rude foliage, reminding one of debased Corinthian. Behind these runs a gallery path in the thickness of the wall, having a small outlet in the centre of each side, concealed from the interior by the small pier which

supports the broad pointed arches. These outlets led into the spaces over the flat ceilings of the Norman church. The thickness of the wall receives a slight addition towards the inside at this level; but even now its breadth does not exceed 4 feet 6 in. including the gallery path. When it is remembered that this is the mass on which two more stories of the tower are supported, to which a later architect did not hesitate to add the weight of a spire, we shall hardly wish for better testimony to the goodness of the Norman masonry. And indeed it is not improbable, as we hope to show presently, that the ruin of the spire was not altogether the consequence of its builder's rashness, but that the whole work, spire and all, might have stood entire to this day, had not its supports been meddled with in after times.

A staircase, cleverly concealed in the north-western angle of the tower, conducts us from this gallery to the stage above, which has two round-headed windows on each side, with a blank pointed arch between them, together filling up nearly the whole width of the tower. The windows are splayed internally, and have shafts in the jambs. The capitals and mouldings are decidedly Late Norman in character. A passage runs round this story, also in the thickness of the wall, and is still of great use for repairs of the windows, &c. Probably it was more necessary in times when the apertures were often closed with either shutters or linen cloth, instead of glass. This stage is much more ornamented on the outside, the mouldings and shafts being bolder and more numerous. The pointed arch between the two round-headed windows is repeated on the outside. A slender banded shaft runs up each angle of the lantern; three of them reach to the ceiling, but the fourth is stopped half-way up by the staircase turret, which here projects slightly into the interior. The angles outside are broken by similar banded shafts.

The uppermost story of the tower, being invisible from the interior of the church, is perfectly plain on the inside, but externally presents a very fine intersecting arcade,

running quite round the tower, and forming seven pointed arches on each side, with what appear to be sunk panels in them. Of these five on each side were originally open as windows, those nearest the angles only having been blank. All but the central opening on each side have been long ago walled up, but at different times, as the colours of the masonry show. The capitals of this arcade are finished with considerable care, and display great variety of design. In fact, all those of this tower are excellent specimens of the sculpture of their time, and form quite a study by themselves. The mouldings of the arcade are well worked, and have a very good effect. They approach very nearly to the Early English style. This is no doubt the latest piece of Norman work about the church, and cannot be dated far from the end of the twelfth century. The arcade is carried, with remarkable ingenuity, round the staircase turret at the north-west angle, so that its projection is scarcely noticeable from below.

Above this story is a corbel-table running round the tower, which is the limit of the old work. It is surmounted by an extremely heavy parapet and pinnacles, erected in the seventeenth century, after the fall of the spire. The expediency of removing these, and replacing them by something very much lighter, is so self-evident, that it need not be insisted on here. When a pier has quitted the exact perpendicular, as those of this tower have done, it can only make matters worse to load it at the top with a huge pinnacle, which must inevitably force it farther from the straight line, though the weight might easily have been borne had the pier been quite upright. It must be owned, however, that the effect of the pinnacles is good in a distant view.

Any person interested in such matters, who will take the trouble to scramble up to the belfry of this tower, will be well repaid for his labour, not only by the sensation which gives such zest to the amusement of going to the top of Mont Blanc or the Pyramids, or up in a balloon, of having



been where people do not usually go, but because this deserted chamber tells its own story so well. The first objects which arrest attention are the four "squinces," or corner arches, which formerly carried the spire; they remain unhurt, though their work has long ceased. The walls bear marks of the five openings which formerly existed in each side, corresponding to the pointed arches of the arcade. Two of these on each side of the central one were first filled up, the arches of the spire springing from that part of the wall; the remaining two, nearest the corners, were first made a little lower, and then also filled up, as the state of the spire required it. The story that this spire gave way on account of the concussion of the bells has no foundation in fact; for first, there is no evidence that more than one small bell ever hung here; and secondly, there are no marks on the walls such as would have been left by the supports necessary for a timber framework large enough to carry a heavy peal. The only vestige of the use of this chamber as a belfry is an upright wooden frame fixed in the opening on the north side, which formerly held the sanctus bell. The bell itself is shown by the accounts to be at least 400 years old, and to have occupied this position. This venerable relic (which had of late years been mounted on the roof of the tower, and used as a fire-bell), has been moved to the chapel at Holt, to save the expense of a new bell for that place.

It now remains to investigate the causes which led to the fall of the spire. In all cruciform churches the view from the nave to the choir, through the eastern and western tower arches, is of course more important than that from one transept to the other. Architects therefore have constantly made it their aim to keep this pair of arches as wide as possible, often at the cost of making the others narrower. This is especially the case in Early Norman churches, where the mass of the tower-piers is usually larger and more difficult to deal with than in the pointed styles. These Norman piers, as at Winchester, Romsey, Sherborne,

c. are commonly made of an oblong shape, their long axes pointing east and west, so that the greatest practicable breadth is given to the arches opening to the nave and choir, while those opening to the transepts are much narrower. But the plan has this great disadvantage, that the wider arches having a less, instead of a proportionably greater, width of pier to withstand their thrust, are much more liable to spread, i. e. to sink at the crown, and force their supports outwards on each side. The original builders appear always to have seen and guarded against this danger, as they always made the arches of the transepts abutting on the tower-piers north and south quite small and narrow, and provided a solid mass of wall above them to give a strong lateral support to the pier. The same expedient was adopted in much larger buildings than this. For example, at Romsey the width of the arch in this position is less than 8 ft., at St. Cross, 7 ft. 4 in., and even at Winchester Cathedral no more than 9 ft. And in this instance the foundations show that the original arches could not have been more than between 7 and 8 ft. wide, while a piece of cap-moulding remaining on the north-west pier determines the height of their springing, which was only 8 ft. from the ground. The abutment of the transept wall against the pier was thus rendered as strong as possible, and was no doubt sufficient to secure it, as the fact of the spire being placed on the supports thus provided abundantly proves. But in later times, when the aisles of the nave had been made wider, and new and larger aisles had been built to the choir, it was thought that these arches were too small to allow a proper view from one to the other, and accordingly some bolder architect substituted much larger Decorated arches, cutting away a large portion of the transept wall to admit them. This, of course, must have weakened the lateral support afforded to the tower-pier, and occasioned that spreading of the eastern and western arches which is so manifest a disfigurement to the church. The arch abutting on the north-eastern pier is wider and loftier than the others. As there

ELEVATION AND SECTION  
of Central Tower and Transepts.



Exterior

Interior

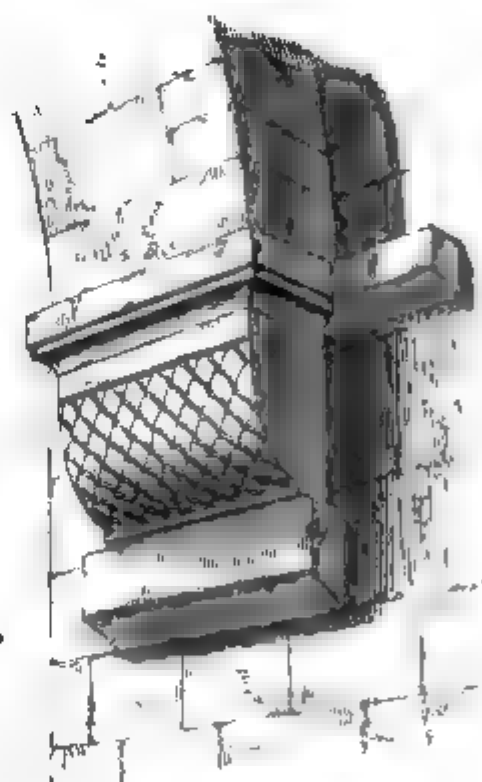
0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Feet

CHAPTER IV.—*The Nave and its Aisles, and the North and South Porches.*



WORK of three different styles, Norman, Decorated, and Perpendicular, is found in the nave, which has aisles throughout its whole length, divided off by six pier-arches on each side, all pointed. Of these the easternmost arches, abutting on the tower-piers, are smaller and earlier than the others, being only 5 ft. 3 in. in span, and consisting of two plain orders, like the tower-arches. They spring from brackets in the tower-piers, one of which is carved in a sort of scale-like pattern, represented below.

The next three bays westward are of later Norman work. The columns are cylindrical, with square bases, and square abaci with re-entering angles. The capitals are of the shape necessary to connect this form with the circle of the pier below, and are of a plain pattern not unusual in the Norman style. The arches are pointed, of two orders, each of which has the chevron ornament cut on the edge of the stones, and projecting like teeth. The inner order consists of a bold round moulding, with a row of these teeth on each side of it, pointing towards the centres of the arch, and the outer order of a row of rather larger teeth, pointing outwards towards the nave. As the teeth are rather irregular, it looks as if each stone had been cut separately, and afterwards fitted into its place. But though the execution is somewhat rough, the effect of these arches is extremely rich and good, especially when



BRACKET IN PIER.

the church is lighted up at night. A hood-mould, with a shallow chevron ornament cut upon it, encircles each arch; at its terminations are rudely carved heads. Over each of the four Norman arches, on each side, is a small round-headed window, now covered by the roof of the aisle, which is carried above it. These formed the clerestory of the original church; and on the west face of the central tower the marks of the old roof of the nave are still visible, forming a triangle the base of which is a little above the level of these windows. They are splayed to the inside, and perfectly plain; on the outside they have small shafts, with plain arch-mouldings; but it is to be noticed that the window over the small arch next the tower, on each side, is of much rougher workmanship and heavier design than the other three. The shafts are quite small, with very plain bases and capitals,—nothing like any of those on the central tower.

At the end of the Norman part of the nave was the original west wall, of the foundations of which some traces remain. The piers which stand on this spot are composed of the Norman half-pier, a piece of the wall, and the half-pier of the later work beyond, so that they have rather a clumsy appearance, like those between the early and late Norman work. The two remaining arches on each side are probably of the Decorated period—perhaps the middle of the fourteenth century—which is most likely also the date of the aisles; but their appearance is so rough and fragmentary that they might have been put together at almost any date. Their piers are octagonal, with very plain capitals and bases; and the arches have two orders, with plain chamfered edges. The half-capital at the point nearest the north porch has the ball-flower and other Decorated ornaments. The others are extremely poor. The half-piers abutting on the present west wall have been buried in the large octagonal buttresses of the west tower (which here intrude into the nave), and were visible during the repairs, when a quantity of the masonry was cut out.

and replaced. They showed that the church never extended farther westward before the bell-tower was built.

Over these later arches a piece of blank wall fills up the space level with the Norman windows ; and above the whole rises the Perpendicular clerestory, probably built at the same time as the bell-tower, 1448-1464. At all events it cannot be later, as the roof must have been raised when the tower-arch, which rises above the level of the old roof, was built. It originally had six square-headed windows on each side, corresponding more or less with the six unequal bays below ; but the number has now been reduced to five, which are placed over the piers instead of over the arches. They are of three lights, each light being subdivided into two small ones at the top. There is nothing elegant or striking about them. The oak roof which formerly stood on this clerestory was an excellent specimen of mediæval carpentry, though perfectly plain. It was fastened together entirely by wooden pegs, no iron being used in its construction. It was found to be too much decayed to be worth replacing when it, together with the clerestory, was taken down during the late repairs. The present roof is of deal, with hammer beams.

Close to the base of the easternmost nave-pier, on the south side, at about eighteen inches below the present pavement, was uncovered a small piece of what appeared to be Roman tessellated pavement. The fragment, which did not cover more than two or three square feet, was composed of red and white tesserae, about an inch square. At all events, it must be a piece of the floor of some former building, whether Roman or not, for it is too far below the bases of the columns to have ever been part of the floor of the present church. It has now been completely covered by the new floor, so that it is not likely that there will be another opportunity of inspecting it for some time.

The aisles of the nave belong to the Decorated period ; most likely about the middle of the fourteenth century. They have no west windows : the side windows are of two lights,

with nothing striking either in their design or execution. The two nearest the west end on each side are slightly larger than the others. The roof was probably originally almost flat, meeting the nave wall below the Norman clerestory windows. It is now carried over these, and up to the foot of the Perpendicular clerestory, so that the Norman windows are visible only from the interior. Perhaps the part of the aisles corresponding to the Norman part of the nave is older than the remainder, since the north porch, which abuts on it, is apparently earlier than the date before mentioned. The work of this porch is much better designed and executed than that of the aisles. It is vaulted in two bays, with bosses carved with foliage. A large proportion of the reddish-brown sandstone, which is plentifully used in the church, is employed here with very good effect. The vaulting springs from small Purbeck marble shafts, with moulded capitals and bases resting on the stone seats with which the porch is provided. There is a small room over the porch, only accessible by a ladder from the inside of the church. This is lighted by a small Decorated window of two lights, square-headed, in the gable above the entrance arch. The gables are high-pitched and surmounted by crosses. The size of the porch is  $15\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ft. inside measurement.<sup>1</sup> The south porch is much smaller, and very plain. It consists of two solid walls projecting six feet from the aisle, with an arch joining their ends, and bearing a small gable, on which is sculptured a figure of a lamb, and a cross at the apex. The part of the north aisle westward of the north door was formerly appropriated to the consistory court, at which the official of the peculiar presided. Its jurisdiction having been abolished, all traces of the court have been swept away. Many of its records, old wills, ordinances, &c. are decaying in the library.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hutchins, in his account of the church, makes a singular mistake; describing this north porch in the place of

one which was built on to the north choir aisle in 1713.

CHAPTER V.—*The Choir and its Aisles.*

**B**EYOND all question the finest part of the interior is the eastern arm of the cross, containing the choir, with the presbytery at its eastern end. Here we have almost, if not quite, the only piece of Early English work remaining about the church, consisting of an addition of about 30 ft. in length to the former choir, the junction of the two being marked by a cluster of slender shafts on each side, rising from the ground to support a pair of arched principal rafters. But to describe the oldest part first—the walls between the point just mentioned and the tower are Norman; though the only visible proof of the fact is the existence of one Norman arch on each side close to the tower-pier. The remainder of these pieces of wall has undergone the following alterations:—first, when the side chapels of the Norman choir into which these arches opened were extended into long aisles, a second arch was cut through the wall on each side of the choir, to open it more fully to the aisles, intruding upon and cutting off a large part of the two Norman windows which have been before referred to as lighting this part of the original choir; which two windows on each side, or what remains of them, were visible when the plaster was removed during the restorations. They were round-headed, and ornamented with the zig-zag moulding. The point of the inserted arch runs up between them, cutting off the lower parts, but leaving the heads entire. Then the Norman clerestory on the north side, and probably on the south also, was replaced by a set of three perpendicular windows of two lights, no doubt for the purpose of admitting more light to the choir; but those on the south side were utterly demolished by the fall of the spire, and their place supplied by a large low Tudor window, oblong in shape, and per-





The Presbytery, Wimborne Minster.

an ordinary arch, but in a way better explained by a sketch than by any amount of description ; the sides of the arch being first inclined towards each other above the head of the lancet, and before they meet being turned back and made to enclose the small opening above in a circular head. At the points or cusps thus formed are small clusters of foliage, and a label with carved heads at its terminations runs round the whole, following the curves of the mouldings. The tooth-ornament, admirably executed, is used over the central light ; the rest of the mouldings are plain, but plentifully bestowed and accurately worked. The effect of the window, as seen from the entrance of the choir, leaves nothing to be desired. But here we cannot help noticing one great fault, namely, that its base is much too near the floor. This defect has been caused by the raising of the altar-platform to allow the insertion of a crypt underneath ; it destroys much of the elevation of the east end, and seriously mars the architect's design. There can be no doubt, as we shall show presently, that the crypt was a subsequent addition, not contemplated by the original builders. Indeed it would be impossible to believe that an architect who was capable of producing such a work as this should also be capable of spoiling it by such a blunder.

Each side wall of the presbytery has a tall lancet window towards its eastern end, and one pier-arch ; the latter opening into the choir-aisle, the former looking out beyond it. These arches are very richly moulded, and are splayed rather more widely towards the inner than towards the outer side, so that more of the mouldings, and more of the Purbeck marble shafts from which they spring, are visible from the choir than from the aisle. Over the arch are two small clerestory windows, of lancet shape. The large lancet next the east end has shafts in the jambs, and a very peculiar moulding on the arch, which bears some resemblance to the lozenge moulding elongated. The roof of the presbytery was continuous with that of the Norman choir ;

but the flat ceiling of the latter must have been removed when the addition was made, since part, if not the whole, of the new roof was open to the church. The rafters had been shortened, and the pitch thereby lowered in modern times, and it was found impossible, in the late restorations, to preserve any part of it. The choir and presbytery are now covered by an arched wooden ceiling, the division between the two being marked by an ornamental cross-rib, springing from the two clusters of shafts, with capitals of foliage, before alluded to, as limiting the Early English work.

Under the pier-arch, on the south side of the presbytery, is a fine altar-tomb, bearing the effigies of John de Beaufort, duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, and his duchess, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp. They were the parents of the Lady Margaret, countess of Richmond and Derby, mother of Henry VII; and to the presence of this tomb Wimborne was indebted for much of her bounty. The figures are in alabaster, somewhat defaced, but yet tolerably perfect. The duke's helmet still hangs over his tomb. Another altar-tomb, of less stately dimensions, and without a recumbent figure, stands under the opposite arch. It bears the following fragment of inscription:—

. . . CONJUX QUONDAM HENRICI  
COURTENEY MARCHIONIS EXON: ET MATER  
EDWARDI COURTENEY NUPER CO . . .

The lady referred to was Gertrude, daughter of William Blount, lord Mountjoy, who died about 1558; and Edward Courteney was the last Earl of Devonshire.<sup>1</sup>

The three sedilia, with canopies over them, are placed on the south side, eastward of the last pier-arch. The piscina is ranged with them under a fourth canopy. They belong to the Decorated style, being ornamented with pinnacles and unusually large and luxuriant finials of foliage.

<sup>1</sup> (Hutchins.) This tomb, like many others, has suffered from vulgar curiosity, having been wantonly violated some years

ago. The tomb was much injured, and the remains treated with shameful disrespect.

Their seats differ in height, as if they had once been placed on steps. Before we leave the choir, a word or two should be said for the old cinque-cento stall-work, erected in 1608, when the church had been repaired after the fall of the spire. It consisted of a transverse screen of three open arches, the central one having doors, and a set of stalls



PART OF THE OLD STALL-WORK.

with canopies on each side, eighteen in number. The work was excellent of its kind, and harmonized well, at all events, with the Norman architecture around, if not with the later styles. Its destruction, or rather mutilation (for it is not all gone) must always be matter of regret, for this reason if for no other—that it was a rare, if not a unique example of a choir fitted up in this fashion for the services of the English Church in a Puritan age. Oak was the material employed, decorated here and there with gilding; and the whole, though different in character, resembled in solidity and elaboration the work of two centuries earlier. The number of stalls has now been reduced to twelve, the canopies and screen have been removed, leaving nothing higher than the stalls themselves, and the floor has been lowered more than two feet, with the object of replacing some steps, indications of which were found in the walls eastward of the first or Norman arch of the choir. Now there is good reason for believing that this flight of steps formed the ascent to the altar-platform of the Norman choir; and that they were probably removed when the Early English presbytery was added, some 600 years ago: so that the necessity of their restoration might seem questionable. The ascent to the east end is now distributed thus: at the entrance of the choir, three steps; at the end of the stalls, in the position just described, four steps; at the commencement of the presbytery, six steps; another half way up the presbytery; and a fifteenth and last close to the east end. This large number of steps in a length of little more than sixty feet, gives an unusual elevation to the floor at this point, which though it detracts from the beauty of the east end, yet has its use in making the voice more audible throughout the church than it would otherwise be.

Let us now descend to the south choir-aisle, which reaches eastward from the transept as far as the three pier-arches of the choir and presbytery. It has a large east window of five lights, under an obtusely pointed arch, each light running quite to the top to meet the arch. The westernmost

bay of the side wall is blank, the vestry being built against it: the other two have windows of three lights, similar in design to the east window. The character of the whole is Late Decorated; and it appears probable that this, as well as the north aisle, was built in place of some Early English aisles which occupied the same ground, though the reason of their removal is not obvious. The pier-arches, which are clearly much earlier in date than the aisles, would hardly have been made into the open air and so left for a century; and the width of the Norman chapels, which determines that of the present aisles, would probably also have fixed that of their predecessors. The piscina, plain in character, with a trefoil head, remains in the south wall, and is the only object of interest left in this aisle. The east wall, around the window, was formerly covered with frescoes, which, however, it was found impossible to preserve when parts of them were exposed during the restorations.<sup>2</sup> The portion left uninjured consisted of two groups of figures at the north side of the window, one above the other, and patterns in colours filling up the adjacent parts; the upper subject representing six figures carrying a bier—the lower, four figures standing in attitudes of grief. An explanation of the two pictures, for which we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Albert Way, will be found in the Appendix. Traces of similar decoration have been found in almost every part of the church; but, except one in the crypt, no other fragments have been found sufficiently large to be intelligible. The chief characteristic of these paintings was the boldness and freedom of their outlines, on which, painted with a mixture of red and black, they depended for effect, more than on arrangement of colours.

An object of great interest to the people of Wimborne has been lost from this aisle in modern times. There stood, in Mr. Hutchins' time and after it, at the foot of the steps

<sup>2</sup> A description of these paintings by Mr. Weld Taylor, of Wimborne, is published in vol. xii. of the "Archæological

Journal," (1856,) p. 103. Tracings of them have been preserved.

leading up to the choir, a large altar-tomb of grey marble, covering the remains of John de Berwick, dean of this church, who died in 1312: the date of his burial being, perhaps, a proof of the existence of Early English aisles in this place before the present ones were built. The chief interest, however, was not in the tomb, but in the use to which it was put. It was, like the Pnyx at Athens, the central point of the parochial democracy. Here the inhabitants met, usually once a year, to receive the account of the old church-wardens, and to elect new ones; to grant leases of church property; to receive fines and rents, and generally to inquire into the affairs of the parish. They passed censures without mercy on negligent or over-busy church-wardens, and issued their edicts with as much decision and solemnity as if they were regulating the affairs of a whole nation. They insisted most strictly on the observance of the rule by which the granting of leases and other business was forbidden at any other time than before the whole parish, at Berwick's tomb, on the "day of account," which was usually at or about All Saints' day. We may imagine with what eagerness the townspeople looked forward to this annual exercise of their legislative functions, and with what anxiety their officers awaited the verdict of the assembly. Let it be mentioned, however, to their credit, that, at least during the two centuries over which our extracts from the accounts extend, there are no charges of peculation recorded; though complaints of extravagance often occur, more or less reasonable, according to the wont of parochial meetings.

To return to our description: the tomb has disappeared, and a stone, with a small inscription on brass, which was laid down to mark its position, has been removed to another place; so that the only record of it is the indication of its site on the ground-plan of the church inserted in this work. This rests on the evidence of an old pen-and-ink plan among Mr. Hutchins' papers.

It was at the eastern end of this aisle that Margaret,

countess of Richmond founded her chantry, close to the tomb of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, her parents; the priest of the chantry being also master of the free grammar school.

The north choir-aisle corresponds in almost every respect to its fellow, the points of difference being that it is a foot less in width, and that it has three windows of two lights each, instead of two with three lights each, besides the east window. The details of all are precisely similar. Both these aisles are much larger and loftier than those of the nave, having, no doubt, formed separate chapels. We learn, from the accounts, that their names respectively were—the south, Trinity aisle; the north, St. George's aisle. It might be found convenient to bring these names again into use. There is a piscina of perpendicular character in the east wall of the aisle under consideration, probably of the same date as the part added for the purpose of strengthening the east end, which had no other features worth preserving, and which has now been removed, the building thereby gaining more in symmetry than it loses in bulk. In the corner lies a mutilated marble effigy of a Crusader, which tradition asserts to have been brought from St. Mary's church, now destroyed. There is no fragment of inscription by which it might be identified: the coat of arms on the shield is supposed to have belonged to certain lords of Hinton Martel.

A curious but bulky relic is preserved here—a chest or strong box of such primitive construction that we should be hardly safe in affixing to it any positive date since the deluge. It consists of a solid trunk of oak, roughly squared, some six feet in length, in which is hewed out an excavation, very small in proportion to the size of the block, covered by a stout lid with six locks. The security of the chest, therefore, depended first on the number of its locks, and the time necessary to pick or force them, and secondly on its immense weight, which rendered it impossible to carry it off whole. It has now fallen into disuse, as its few remaining



locks would probably present but small obstacles to the accomplished hand of a modern burglar.

By a singular arrangement, this aisle has been furnished with two doors into the open air: one of them an original Norman door of small size, the other a modern insertion. The former is at the west end of the aisle close to the transept, corresponding to the entrance of the vestry on the opposite side of the church. It has a low arch, formed by a segment of a circle, and is extremely plain. The latter is placed farther eastward, and supplies the place of a door, which, with a porch over it, was made here at the beginning of the last century. Perhaps this departure from the original plan is to be excused on the score of convenience, the width of the old entrance being found insufficient for modern requirements. There is little else to be said of these aisles, except that about their western ends, in the interior, may be seen the remains of the Norman string-courses, on the presence of which the age assigned to the walls partly depends; and that the view across the choir, in a diagonal direction from the small Norman door just mentioned, is, perhaps, not to be surpassed in picturesqueness by any interior of the same kind and similar size. The use of coloured stone in the voussoirs of the arches, and the fact that all the windows eastward of the central tower are filled with excellent modern stained glass, contribute very much to this effect. The roofs are of stained deal, the springers rising, in the north aisle, from Purbeck marble shafts—in the south, from brackets. We must notice, in passing, that the arch between the north aisle and the transept is larger than those which occupy the corresponding positions, though its details are not dissimilar.

CHAPTER VI.—*The Crypt, Vestry, and Library.*

BY a broad flight of steps under the easternmost pier-arch we gain access to the crypt, which is a remarkable instance of great effect obtained in a small space, and with extremely plain details. The vaulting is supported on two pairs of columns, which divide the space into three small aisles lengthwise, and each of the aisles into three bays. It will be most convenient for description to consider the cross-divisions as marking off the crypt into eastern, middle, and western portions; the east of which is later than the other two. The eastern and middle portions are rather early in the Decorated style; the ribs of the vaulting have a sunk chamfer on their edges, and the arches are rather acute. It is difficult to conjecture the mode of access to the crypt as it originally stood, consisting of these two portions only: for the sole approach at present is through the later part. The vaulting of the older two-thirds sprang from two small octagonal piers in the middle, and single shafts against the walls, ten in number. When the addition was made to the crypt westward, the wall which bounded it in that direction was necessarily taken away, but the two shafts which stood against it were still retained in their places, and backed up by a small pier built against each to support the vaulting of the new part. We have therefore two plain octagonal piers, the eastern pair; and two of nondescript shape, with a shaft attached to the eastern side of each. The vaulting of the later or western division is more obtuse, and the ribs heavier than those of the other part; and the mouldings indicate that it was made at the same time with the present choir-aisles. The broad arches of entrance on each side intrude upon and cut off part of the pier-arches under which they stand, some of the Early English shafts being shortened to admit them, and others carried on corbels.

The crypt is lighted chiefly by four windows, whose shape is that of a spherical triangle, all being placed in the eastern division, which projects beyond the choir-aisles. Two are at the east end, the central space between them being left blank for the decorations of the altar ; and one in each side wall. The history of the window on the north side is very curious, and deserves to be noticed. It should first be remarked that the floor of the crypt is some three or four feet below the level of the original foundations ; which, however, were not carried down or under-pinned at all when the excavation was made, but simply left as before, there being nothing, therefore, below them but the thin lining wall of the crypt. Things being in this state, we can easily imagine that the cutting of windows through the wall must have been an extremely hazardous proceeding. It was, nevertheless, safely accomplished in three out of the four cases ; but when this north window had been cut half through the wall symptoms of danger to the east end seem to have showed themselves, and stopped the too enterprising improvers. The half-finished window was filled up with stone, and so remained for more than five centuries—till the year 1856. But the danger, though averted for the time, was not entirely removed ; and at some time in the fifteenth century became imminent, so that it was necessary to strengthen the east wall in some way. A very original mode of proceeding was adopted, which produced the desired effect, though at the cost of the symmetry of the building. The east wall of the north aisle was taken down, and rebuilt in a line with that of the presbytery ; the Decorated east window of the aisle being retained in its place, and the vacuum created by the lengthening of the aisle being filled up with a square-headed Perpendicular window. An abutment was thus provided for the failing east end, and the trouble of making a thorough examination and repair avoided. This necessary process has now at last been gone through ; and, as no external support is required, the east wall of the aisle has been set back to its former

position, and the window of the crypt, begun so long ago, completed. All minor instances of bungling and delay must shrink into insignificance before a case where it has taken more than five centuries to cut a hole in a wall.

In the middle division of the crypt an opening is made on each side up into the choir-aisle. These openings are similar in size and shape, on the outside, to the windows, but are splayed widely inwards, in a slanting direction, towards the east; their object evidently being, besides the admission of light, to allow persons in the choir-aisles to obtain a sight of the altar, and so to accommodate a larger congregation than the crypt itself could hold. The entrance arches were probably also made wide for a similar purpose; they belong to the later part, and have nothing striking about them. The three arches dividing the earlier from the later vaulting are very elegantly cusped. The sedilia of the high altar overhead are placed just above this part; and the gradation of their seats is therefore accounted for by the fact that the altar steps were in this position till they were moved farther westward by the addition of a new piece to the crypt; which alteration had also the effect of shortening the clustered shafts, which have been before mentioned, at the commencement of the presbytery. The bases of these shafts were found to have been raised to their present position from a point some feet lower down.

The crypt had originally a pavement of encaustic tiles, which was perfect in Mr. Hutchins' time. Only a few vestiges of it now remain, this part of the church having been, in quite recent times, converted into family vaults. These, however, with their tenants, were ejected some years ago. It is right to mention here that a large vault close by, which has frequently been accused of encroaching on the space of the crypt, has, in reality, never diminished it by a single inch, but is excavated under part of the choir westward of it, where it does not in any way interfere with the plan of the building. It is just possible that on the spot now occupied by the vault, that is to say, under the site of the altar-

platform of the Norman church, there may have been a small crypt of that period, which therefore may have been converted into a receptacle for bodies, and so have given rise to the rumour referred to. But as there is no positive evidence, and as the vault is now finally sealed up, we have no means of ascertaining whether this was the case.

The crypt has a small piscina south of the site of the altar, but no other remains of its ornaments. There were till lately remains of fresco-painting on the walls, the chief subject of which was supposed to represent the architect presenting a model of the church to King Edward ; but the dates of the church being so various, of course the exact meaning of the picture cannot be made out—if, indeed, the tradition interprets it correctly as far as it goes.

The vestry or sacristy is entered by a pointed doorway under what appears to be a Norman arch, at the south-west corner of the south choir-aisle. It is a vaulted room, about fifteen feet square, lighted by two windows on the sides not attached to the church. The vaulting is sex-partite, the ribs, which are moulded, converging to a carved boss in the centre, and the red sandstone being plentifully used, as in the crypt and north porch ; but certainly here, and most likely in the other cases too, they have been covered with plaster, on which flower patterns were painted in colours. The room is of the Decorated period, probably not so early as these parts of the building, as the mouldings seem to indicate. Its windows are plain, one of two lights, the other of a single light, cusped, and no doubt much earlier than those of the aisles. A small door in the corner of this interesting chamber admits us to a turret-stair of Perpendicular date, leading to one still more interesting—the library. The occurrence of an establishment of this kind attached to a church of importance is by no means uncommon ; we find one belonging to most cathedrals, as a depository of records and accounts, as well as a receptacle for books and other literary treasures. But there is a great peculiarity in the case of the Wimborne library : it was not

a mere store-house of valuable property, but probably one of the earliest attempts at popularizing knowledge; for this collection of books was placed here, in 1688, for the free use of the townspeople of Wimborne; no slight boon, if we remember the scarcity and costliness of books at that day. True, the books relate chiefly to theology, and are of a class which has now become obsolete; but they are of the best in their kind, and must have been collected with considerable expense and trouble by their donor, the Rev. William Stone, in whose library controversial divinity, a subject which absorbs so large a proportion of the literature of the time, would naturally hold the first place. This little room must always, therefore, have a claim on our respect, as one of the earliest germs of that system of providing book-knowledge for the people which has reached so vast a development in the public libraries of our own time. It is, perhaps, a significant fact that its date corresponds with the enormous impetus given to science by the grand discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton, whose "Principia" were published in the year preceding. And it must not be forgotten, that, antiquated as the scientific literature of this age appears to us, there is still a link connecting it with that of our own time in the "Philosophical Transactions," the annual issue of which commenced in 1665, and continues to the present day. This digression must be excused as being an effort to establish a real ground of interest for the library, and to rescue it from the state of neglect which is usually the lot of all combinations of old paper and dust. Any long notice of the contents of the library would be foreign to our present purpose. A single entire manuscript remains, bearing the date 1343. It is a compendium of instructions for priests having the cure of souls, compiled from various sources. The writing is indifferent as compared with other works of that age, and the matter does not repay perusal. A formula of absolution for the writer, entered at the end of the book, is curious, though such a mode of acknowledging a work completed is not unusual in old manuscripts. Another

curiosity is a set of the Arabic numerals in their oldest form, which are to be found upon the fly-leaf. They appear to be formed with difficulty, and the numbers are repeated over and over again, as if the writer were but just making himself master of the decimal system of notation. Very few instances of the use of these numerals in England are met with earlier than this date ; and for a long time after they were almost entirely confined to men of letters. The presence of the figures here is, however, no proof that they are as old as the book. A good copy of the London Polyglott Bible of 1657, in six large folio volumes, is the most important work in the collection ; but there are, as might be expected, many books of much older date, and of considerable interest and value. Sir Walter Raleigh's "History of the World," a fine volume, which has been allowed, of late years, to get into a shamefully dilapidated state, has a curious anecdote attached to it. Matthew Prior, the poet, was a native of Wimborne, and, it seems, the only distinguished man that Wimborne has ever produced. It is said that he was in the habit of spending a good deal of his time reading in this library ; and that once, when he had paid Sir Walter Raleigh the bad compliment of going to sleep over his book, his candle seized the opportunity to fall on the page, and burnt a hole through some few dozen leaves before he awoke. The student, perhaps wishing to mark his own sense of the impropriety of which he had been guilty, repaired the injury in the most conscientious manner, pasting a piece of paper about as large as a half-crown over each hole, and restoring the text with the greatest minuteness. It is to be feared that few readers have, of late, been inclined to follow his example, for there is too much reason to find fault with the general condition of the books and their bindings. Their number, too, has probably rather diminished than increased. The room, till lately, retained its original fittings, having, as all old libraries have, iron rods, secured with locks, along the edges of the shelves, to which each book was attached by a chain ; so that the only



way of reading comfortably was by bringing a desk and stool close up to the shelves, within the length of the book's tether. The chains now hang useless, the old shelves having been swept away during the repairs ; and a significant fact remains, that, when the volumes came to be sorted and arranged, it was found that there were more chains than books. A few pounds would be well expended in repairing and re-binding some of the valuable books which will assuredly fall to decay here, unless something is done to prevent it.

Many fragments of manuscript and very old letter-press are to be found peering out here and there from the tattered bindings, having been used either to mend them or as part of the original cover. There are other curiosities in the library, chiefly the produce of the late excavations. Among them are some pieces of alabaster sculpture, apparently part of a considerable composition in high relief, which stood over one of the altars in the south transept, and has been wantonly destroyed within the memory of man. Probably, however, it had been much damaged before. Some of the fragments—especially two heads—retain traces of colour and gilding ; but their mutilation has been so complete that nothing can be conjectured as to the subject of the work. The figures must have been from one to two feet high, and very numerous. A tomb-stone cross of Purbeck marble, with an oddly-shaped triangular head, several specimens of encaustic tiles, and a singularly well-carved female head, for a dripstone termination, of the Decorated period, almost complete the list.

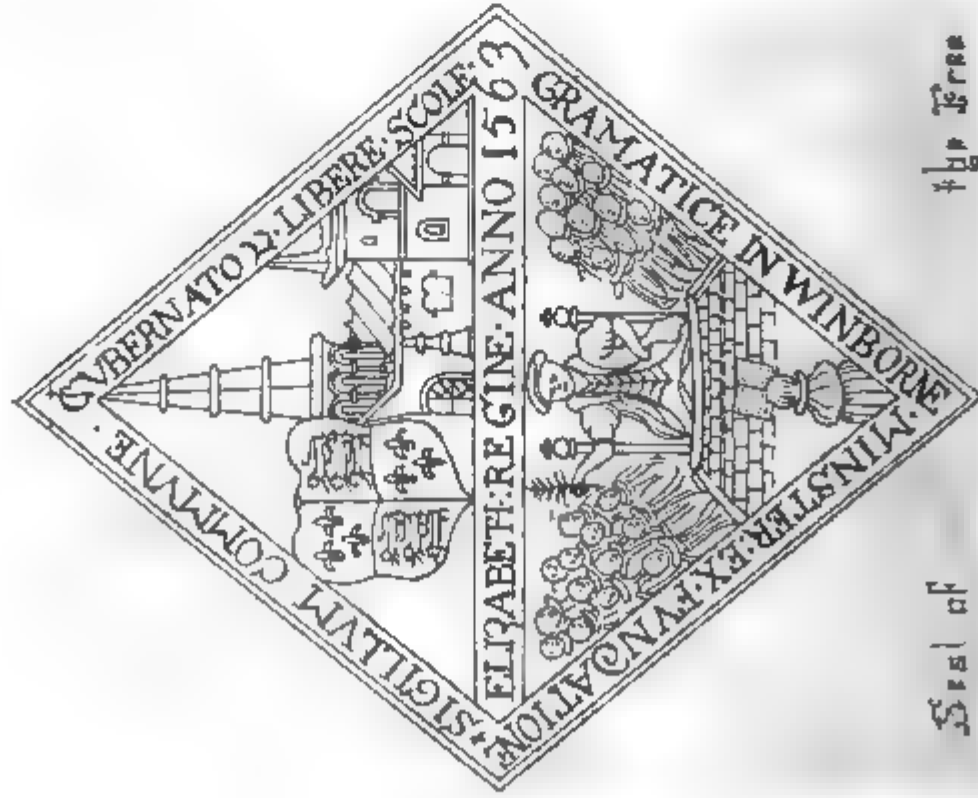
An ancient alms-box, with a lock and chain so contrived that it could be fastened to a staple in the wall, is worthy of notice. It has, unfortunately, been allowed to fall to pieces ; but a drawing of it in the complete state is preserved. It is cylindrical in shape, hollowed out of a solid block, and has a circular lid, shaped by the turning lathe—the height being about eight inches, the diameter six inches. The slit for the admission of coins is so small as not to allow the passage of anything larger than a shilling or a sovereign.



One other relic remains to be mentioned—a small vessel of pewter, standing about four inches high, which is supposed to be a chrismatory, or receptacle for the holy oil. It is very like an ordinary coffee-pot in shape, and if the use assigned to it were not the true one, it is difficult to determine what could have been. The metal is somewhat decayed from age.

The date of the room itself is probably as far back as the fifteenth century, the staircase leading to it being Perpendicular in character. The windows have been restored uniformly with those of the vestry below: they had been enlarged into plain square openings, with mullions, probably when the chamber was converted into a library. Up to that time it seems to have been known as the treasury.

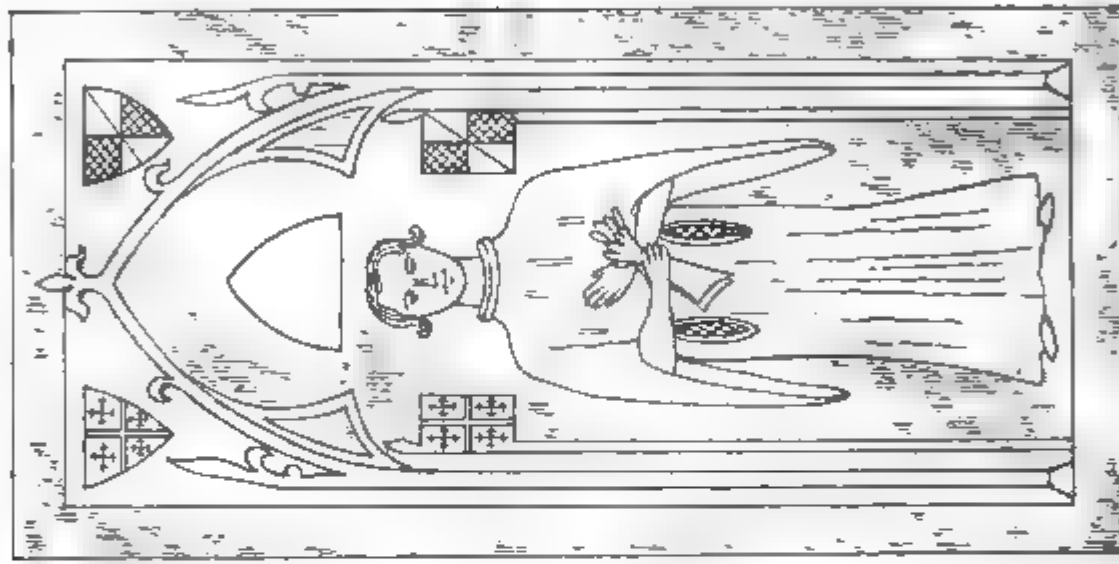




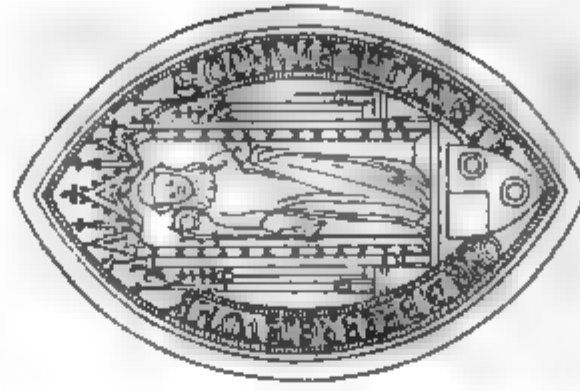
Seal of

the

Grammar-School +



was inscribed as such over  
formerly in Bream's Chantry +



Seal of  
Bream's Chantry +

south window are Norman, and that they belonged to a lower building attached to the end of the transept.. The similarity of the masonry, and the presence of some portions of string-course on the exterior, lead to this conclusion. This site may be assigned, with some show of reason, to St. Mary's or the Lady Chapel; for all other positions seem to be excluded, by one cause or another. We learn from the accounts, that, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, St. Mary's chapel had a rood-loft and organ, and that it required an outlay for ceiling it over: neither of which facts agree very well with its supposed site in the crypt. And the north transept and two choir-aisles are already provided with names; so that this is really the only unoccupied part at which we can place it with any probability of being right. Nor is it at all unusual to find chapels attached in this way to the transepts. The church of the hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester, which may be about contemporary with this, appears to have had one at both ends, before the plan was enlarged so as to include them, in a way precisely similar to this. A fine Norman piscina, showing signs of transition to the next style, is preserved in the south wall, close to the altar, which we assume to have been that of St. Mary, and above is a large five-light Decorated window, each light going quite up to the principal arch, and having a piece of tracery in the head; this is not one of the most common forms of Decorated windows, nor one of the most beautiful. Probably cheapness was a recommendation not to be neglected here. It is considerably later in character than Brembre's chantry opposite. The roof has suffered the same curtailment as that of the other transept; and the rough, plain, tie-beams add nothing to its beauty, obstructing as they partly do the view of the window which rises into the gable. There are no side windows, but a part of the exterior frame of one may be seen exposed in the library, which abuts on the east wall; proving that this wall, at all events, is older than the vaulting of the vestry

which blocks up the lower part of the window. The transepts are the only parts of the church which still remain unrestored ; they appeal to the pity of beholders by their shabby internal appearance, and signs of failing strength outside. But when so large a sum of money has been voluntarily expended on the body of the church, it would be unfair to complain because the completion of the work is deferred.

CHAPTER VIII.—*The Western Tower, and the Bells.*

ARE as are the instances of churches with two large towers, one at the intersection and the other at the west front, cases where this arrangement formed part of the original design would be probably still more difficult to find. It would, in all likelihood, be found that the western tower was an after-thought in most churches where it occurs in addition to the other, as it undoubtedly was here. There is nothing to show that the church of St. Cuthberga possessed any bells of considerable size till the middle of the fifteenth century, when the original peal of five heavy bells is asserted by tradition to have been brought hither from the chapel of St. James, at Kingston. The tower was then built to receive them, and apparently for this reason only, as there is no proof of the existence of any former structure. Sir John Benton, lord of the manor of Hampreston, gave the stone for the tower in 1448; but as it is recorded that Thomas Keymer, dean, gave twenty pounds towards the work in 1459, and bequeathed forty pounds for the same purpose in 1464, some years seem to have elapsed before its completion. It is unfortunate that the churchwardens' accounts only take us back to 1475, just falling short of the date when this last portion of the building was added.

The features of the work are plain and decidedly meagre, when compared with the magnificent structures of the same age which are to be found so plentifully in Somersetshire and other counties. The lower story opens, by a lofty Perpendicular arch, to the nave, and has a western door, with a large six-light window above it, crossed by a transom. The ceiling is vaulted, the usual aperture being left for the descent of the bells. Above this is the ringing-loft, over which a second floor has been introduced to receive

the clock and chimes ; and highest of all the belfry, which has two considerable windows on each side. These windows give the tower all the character it possesses : they are of two lights, with transoms, and their arches are four-centred, as is that of the west window. In front of the easternmost of the pair on the north side, stands a wooden figure of a soldier, popularly known as the Jack-man, or quarter-Jack, with a bell on either hand. The figure, which is nearly the size of life, had of late years been robed in a gown of lead, with a round flat cap for a head-piece ; he has now thrown off these sombre habiliments, and appears in his original character as a sentinel, taking account of the flight of time. The two bells on which he strikes, or rather appears to strike, the quarters (for the real work is done by hammers inside), are probably the oldest in the tower. They are much smaller than those of the peal, and, having had light work, have never, it appears, required to be re-cast.

Each angle of the tower has a large octagonal turret-buttress, the north-eastern of which contains the staircase, the others being solid. The walls are nearly six feet thick in the lower part, and the large apertures are only on the eastern and western sides ; yet, notwithstanding all this apparent strength, the condition of the tower with regard to stability is not much better than that of its fellow. The masonry is of the most indifferent kind : so loosely indeed is it put together that constant repairs have been needed for the last two centuries, or during half of the tower's existence. This defective construction has caused a great deal of trouble and no little risk during the recent operations ; and the quantity of liquid cement absorbed by the cavities, which penetrate the walls in every direction, has been something astonishing. Part of one of the piers of the great arch has been cut out and rebuilt, and all accessible faults have been made good ; but it is, of course, too late to remedy the effects of old settlements, which have thrown the tower out of the perpendicular. It is now probably

in a sounder state than it has enjoyed for many years. The history of this structure is somewhat interesting. Having been some considerable time in building, it seems to have been finished about 1464, when the west window was glazed, as appears by the following record :—

“Solut’ pro querend’ unum glaziatorem—iv *d.*

“Et in expensis dicti glaziatoris cum equo suo per v days, cum vitavit novam fenestram in occidentali fine ecclesiæ, iv *s.*”<sup>1</sup>

But its troubles were soon to begin, for as early as 1548 we find a record of the bricking up of the western door; and at no very distant date hints of its dubious stability begin to be given, till we come to this curious entry in 1664 :—

“Paid in beere to the Ringers for a peale to trye if the Tower shooke, 1 *s.*”

On this occasion, as on many others, masons had been sent for “to view the faults in the tower,” whose reports were usually followed by some kind of works about it; but it was reserved for two churchwardens of the last century to put the finishing stroke to the improvements. These excellent men, who took care duly to chronicle their names as conspicuously as possible on their great work, demolished the great west window and doorway, replacing the one by a huge oval opening, and the other by a small door of corresponding ugliness. Having thus finished off the outside, they turned their attention to the interior, removing the vaulting, and bringing down the ringers a story lower. The tower was then, or at some subsequent period, divided off from the church by a partition in which some fragments of an old decorated screen were preserved, and made a receptacle for the parish fire-engines. But as all great schemes are liable to defects of detail, so here a slight

<sup>1</sup> “Paid for fetching a glazier, 4*d.*, and for the costs of the said glazier and his horse for five days, while he was glazing the new window at the west end of the church, 4*s.*”

This entry is taken from the edition of Hutchins’ “History of Dorset,” in four volumes; the second of which, containing

a much more copious account of Wimborne than is found in the original work, was published in 1803, and appears to have furnished the materials for the Rev. Peter Hall’s “History,” which, however, contains no hint that his matter is not original.



drawback interfered with the completeness of the plan. The new west door was found to be too small to allow the passage of the engines ; so, in case they were wanted at any time, they had to be brought down first two or three steps into the nave, and then up two or three more into the north porch, and so out that way, to the great delight of the unlucky parishioner whose house might be burning; an arrangement of singular simplicity and beauty, and worthy of the great genius which conceived the idea of improving the west window. The whole formed, till the restoration unfortunately interfered with it, a noble example of that style which has been called "Churchwarden architecture;" a style the examples of which will no doubt increase in value as they become more rare.

The west window has been restored to its original proportions from fragments of the tracery discovered imbedded in the walls, and the west door replaced below it. The vaulting is reconstructed, and the space under the tower thrown open to the church, the fragments of screen remaining on the spot having been worked up into a complete one with doors, and placed under the great arch. They may have formed part of the old choir-screen, which would probably have been greatly damaged by the fall of the spire. The design is handsome, without being elaborate. There is no foliage or other sculptured work about it. In the centre of the space stands the font, a very plain octagonal basin of Purbeck marble, set on a spirally carved centre shaft with eight smaller ones surrounding it, standing on a base elevated on three steps. Though the font itself is extremely plain, yet its advantageous position, and the handsome pyramidal cover which surmounts it, give it a dignity of effect which more elaborate works often fail to attain. Against the south wall is fixed a curious old orrery, on the principle of what is known as the Ptolemaic system; that is to say, the earth is fixed in the centre, and the sun, moon, and stars are made to revolve round it in their several places. This is undoubtedly older than the promulgation

of the true planetary system by Copernicus in 1543 ; it is called the “oryall” in the old accounts. A rod from the clock gives motion to its works, which indicate on the dial-plate the phases of the moon as well as the progress of her revolution, and the hour of the day.<sup>2</sup>

The ringing loft, above the vaulting, is reached by a rather dilapidated stair in the thickness of the wall, leading into a circular stair in the north-eastern turret. There is nothing worthy of remark till we reach the belfry, where hangs a fine peal of eight large bells. The cage or timber framework which holds them is set, as it always should be, quite clear of the walls ; the ends of the great beams which support it resting on a set-off, or ledge which goes round the belfry, and being the only points of contact. By this means as little as possible of the vibrations of the cage, which are of course violent when the bells are in full peal, is communicated to the walls. If this precaution were neglected here, as it is in many places to the great damage of the tower walls, the result would probably be most serious. The bells and chimes appear to have been the great delight of the people of Wimborne from time immemorial. The date of the chimes certainly goes back to the fifteenth century, and from that time the expenditure of labour and money on keeping them in order was one of the chief items of the churchwardens’ accounts. They would seem, therefore, to have been kept in a pretty constant state of repair ; and in 1629 their misuse is made a special subject of complaint by the churchwardens. In that same year the tenor, or great bell ; which claims description first, was re-cast as we now see it. Its weight is given in an edition of Hutchins’ History at the alarming quantity of six hundred and thirty hundred weight and a half, considerably more than double that of the great bell at Westminster. It is consoling to know that this is merely a harmless mistake for thirty-six and a half, and that the real weight of the bell is probably

<sup>2</sup> By a strange blunder, in almost every account of the church which has yet appeared, this machine has been described

as on the Copernican system. Could the person who first committed the mistake ever have heard of Galileo ?

rather under that estimate. It bears an inscription as follows:—

MR. WILHELMUS LORINGE ME PRIMO FECIT  
IN HONOREM STÆ CUTHBERGÆ.

RENOVABAR SUMPTU PAROCHIALI PER A.B.,  
ANNO DOMINI, 1629.

Now Mr. William Loringe is said to have been canon of this church in the eighth year of Richard II. (1384), which tradition is not easy to reconcile with that of the removal of the bells from Kingston to this place in the following century. As the point, however, is of no immediate importance, it may be passed by for the present. St. Cuthberga's, or Cuthborough bell, as this one was formerly called, was re-cast between 1528 and 1530, once, if not twice; in the latter year it was re-consecrated, or "hallowed," with great solemnity by a suffragan bishop, on its return from Salisbury, to which place it had been sent for melting. It underwent the same process seventy years later, and lastly in 1629; on which occasion a pit was dug and a furnace constructed in the garden of one Henry Allen, near the churchyard, by Anthony Bond, the bell-founder, and the bell melted down and re-cast on the spot. Its key is C natural.

The seventh bell bears date 1798; the sixth, 1600, and the inscription, "Sound out the bells, in God rejoyce." The fifth, 1598, and the words, "Praise thou the Lord." The fourth, 1686, with "Pulsata Rosamundi Maria vocata—S. M. V." The third, which was the treble of the old peal of six, the line, "Sum minima hic campana, at inest sua gratia parvis," and "This bell was added to y<sup>e</sup> five in 1686." It also has the initials of the same maker as the last, Samuel Knigt. The two remaining bells have been lately added, to complete the peal of eight; and, though the smallest of all, they bear more inscription than all the rest put together. We must hope that it was by an inadvertence that these bells were loaded not only with the names of the makers, and the date, manner and occasion of their

being placed here, but with the styles and titles of a whole committee of subscribers as well; it would be melancholy to be compelled to believe that eight or ten excellent householders of Wimborne could have solemnly conspired to hand down to posterity a memorial of their own petty vanity. The unlucky bells have had to be altered more than once, and even now are not quite in tune; the result, no doubt, of their having to carry with them in their swing the weight of so many "influential" names.

Considerable pains have been bestowed on the restoration of the chimes, which had ceased to play for some years. They are now furnished with eight tunes, which delight the people of Wimborne, with more or less regularity, four times in the twenty-four hours. The taste shown in their selection seems at least questionable, most of them being popular airs, which, whatever their merits may be, seem somewhat out of place in a church tower. At any rate some objections may be fairly made to an arrangement which could produce such a scene as the following. A funeral was slowly winding its way through the principal streets of the town towards the new cemetery, one of the bells in the tower tolling the while, when suddenly the clock struck twelve, and the chimes immediately struck up "Rule Britannia,"<sup>3</sup> to which accompaniment the mourners had to proceed till the bells had had their say out. Chime music, in these days of popular concerts and barrel-organs, is probably falling in public estimation; and it seems better that it should be restricted to a few simple notes requiring little execution than it should drag its slow length through the mazes of intricate tunes; which, whether merry or grave in themselves, sound all alike doleful when performed in the laborious manner in which the chimes deal them out.

<sup>3</sup> Any person with the smallest knowledge of music, who has ever looked at the tune of "Rule Britannia" on paper, will be able to appreciate the bold stroke

of genius, regardless of accidentals, which could place such a tune upon a peal of eight bells.

CHAPTER IX.—*The Organ and Services.*

NOTICES of organs and organ-players occur at the earliest part of the records of the church which we possess, and continue to the present time. Indeed only once, when all the furniture of the church was destroyed or defaced, at the time of the Great Rebellion, does the church appear to have been without one at least of these aids to public worship. We read of "the great organs," "the organs in the roodloft" (these two being most likely the same), "the little organs," and "the organs in St. Mary's chapel." Perhaps the great and little organs stood together, and formed parts of the same instrument, as the great and choir organ do in our own day. We can hardly form any correct idea of the size and completeness of these appendages of the church service before the Reformation; but, from the very rare specimens of ancient English organs that have come down to us, we may suppose they would make but a poor figure by the side of the monsters to which we are accustomed now-a-days. An organ is said to have been used here for the first time in the 7th year of Henry IV. (1405), but on what evidence it is uncertain. John Vaucks, "orgin-master," was employed, in 1533, to set up a new "pair of organs" in the roodloft, for which he was paid by the contributions of the parish; and his work appears to have lasted till the troubles of the Great Rebellion, which brought it to an untimely end. In the year 1643, among entries for new glazing the windows and new covering the roofs with lead (measures often found necessary after a visit of the Parliamentary forces), we find the following:—

<sup>1</sup> Organs in the plural, or a pair of organs, in old writings, are now universally understood to mean what we call an organ,

in the singular. The expression "a pair of staires," meaning what is also called a stair, is analogous.

“ Paid for sum of the organ pipes . . . . . 6*d.*  
 „ for one of the surplices . . . taken by a soldeir . . . 6*d.*”

Here, then, is the fate of John Vauck's handiwork, after a century of use; its pipes scattered about the streets or stolen for the sake of the metal, and the trouble of those who brought some of them back valued at sixpence. A considerable quantity of materials must, however, have been left, since in the year following the churchwardens sold off more than 140 lb. of old tin, no doubt supplied by the organ-pipes. After this destruction the church remained without an organ till 1664; in which year a new one was put up by Robert Hayward of Bath, an organ-builder whose name is not to be found in the lists of Englishmen of that craft contained in the standard works on that subject. Hayward's organ remains to the present day, and proves that he was not a whit behind others of his countrymen whose works are better known. The instrument has usually been attributed to Schmidt, Father Smith as he is often called; but the documentary evidence is conclusive on this point. A rate was made and levied, in 1663, amounting to £253 13*s.* 8*d.*, for the repairs of the church and for buying a new organ; and an agreement was entered into with Robert Hayward, in fulfilment of which the organ was set up in the following year, the price paid being £180. When it was finished, two distinguished musicians, Mr. Tompkins and Mr. Silver, from Salisbury, were sent for to “prove the organ, whether it was sufficient according to our covenants,” and received £5 for their trouble. Their verdict was no doubt favourable. The organ which they examined has done its duty well, though its constitution has been somewhat altered by later improvements. In 1764, just a century after its erection, having suffered greatly from neglect, it was repaired by a maker named Seed, of Bristol, who added the “echo,” or swell, and probably also the trumpet-stop of the great organ. It was rebuilt, in 1844, by Robson, of St. Martin's Lane, London, who extended the swell from fiddle G to tenor C, and added pedal-pipes, which were connected to the keys

of the great organ, and continued by a double open diapason of metal in the treble. This stop, now that the pedal-pipes have been disconnected from the keys, has a very incomplete appearance. Composition pedals and new bellows were introduced at the same time, with other improvements. Lastly, in 1856, it was removed from its position over the choir-screen, and transferred to the south choir-aisle, against the back wall of which it now stands. Its contents are as follows: (an asterisk is prefixed to those stops the whole or part of which has been added at the last rebuilding.)

**GREAT ORGAN.**—12 Stops, 706 Pipes. Compass, CC—d<sup>3</sup>,  
(GG, short octave. AA has been replaced by CC sharp.)

	PIPES.
1. Double open diapason treble, metal, 16 ft. tone, e—d <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	23
2. Open diapason, metal, 8 ft. tone, mid. c—d <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27
3. *Open diapason, metal, 8 ft., CC . . . . .	51
4. Stopped diapason, metal treble, 8 ft. tone, GG . . . . .	52
5. Clarabella, metal, 8 ft., middle c—d <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27
6. Principal, metal, 4 ft., GG . . . . .	52
7. Twelfth, metal, 3 ft. „ . . . .	52
8. Fifteenth, metal, 2 ft. „ . . . .	52
9. Tierce, metal, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft. „ . . . .	52
10. Larigot, metal, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. „ . . . .	52
11. Sesquialtera, 4 ranks, metal, GG . . . . .	208
12. Trumpet, metal, 8 ft. „ . . . .	52

**CHOIR ORGAN.**—4 Stops, 207 Pipes. Compass, CC—d<sup>3</sup>,  
(GG, short octave.)

1. Stopped diapason, metal treble, 8 ft. GG . . . . .	52
2. Principal, metal, 4 ft., GG . . . . .	52
3. Flute, closed wood, 4 ft., CC . . . . .	51
4. Fifteenth, metal, 2 ft., GG . . . . .	52

**PEDAL.**—1 stop.

Open diapason, wood, large scale, 16 ft. Compass CCC—  
tenor E . . . . . 29

**SWELL.**—10 stops. 648 Pipes. Compass, tenor C—f<sup>4</sup>.

1. *Double diapason, closed wood, 16 ft. tone . . . . .	54
2. Open diapason, metal, 8 ft. . . . .	54
3. Stopped diapason, metal treble, 8 ft. tone . . . . .	54
4. Principal, metal, 4 ft. . . . .	54
5. Fifteenth, metal, 2 ft. . . . .	54



6. *Sesquialtera, 3 ranks, metal . . . . .	162
7. *Cornopean (double trumpet), metal, 16 ft. . . . .	54
8. Trumpet, metal, 8 ft. . . . .	54
9. Oboe, metal, 8 ft. . . . .	54
10. Cremona, metal, 8 ft. (removed from choir organ) . . . . .	54

The organ thus possesses twenty-seven speaking stops, and 1,508 pipes, of which 175 are of wood, and 1,433 of metal. The proportion of metal to wood was originally even much greater; till the alterations which have been made of late years, there were only eighty-seven wooden pipes in the organ, namely, the bass of the stopped diapasons, and the flute of the choir organ; they amounted, therefore, to about one fourteenth of the whole number. The proportion is now a little less than one in eight; while in most modern organs it rises as high as one in five, or one in four.

The couplers are as follows:—1, swell octave; 2, swell unison; 3, swell to choir; 4, swell to great; 5, choir to great; 6, choir to pedal; 7, great to pedal. There are three composition pedals to the great organ, and two to the swell.

The “swell octave” coupler is a contrivance introduced into this organ by Mr. Robson, by whom the late alterations have been chiefly made, at a cost of about £200, Mr. Blount, the present organist, undertaking the construction of some parts of the mechanism. Its effect is to make the swell sound an octave higher either on its own manual, or on either of the others to which it may be coupled; and this may be done with or without the unison of the swell, which does not sound unless the handle marked “swell unison” is drawn. It also makes the lowest octave of the swell sound on the keys from CC to tenor C, below its own compass, and brings the highest octave, which extends above the range of the keyboard at the ordinary pitch, on to the keys; so that there is in fact a choice between a swell of complete compass, but of octave pitch, and one of tenor C compass at unison pitch, or both may be used together. The roller-boards of the swell are placed horizontally underneath it, and the Venetian shutters are made to



open both at the front and back. The octave coupler is by no means a recent invention; but there seems to be novelty in this particular application of it. Another improvement now also introduced here consists in making the draw-stop handles converge towards the player, instead of being directed straight forward, which not only gives him a better view of the names of the stops engraved on them, but enables him to draw and return them with greater ease and comfort to himself. The old manuals are still retained, the natural keys being black and the short keys white, as is usual in organs of the seventeenth century; an arrangement often found inconvenient where there is not enough light at the keyboards, as in the present case. The pitch is a whole tone below that known as Philharmonic.

The stop labelled "Clarabella" on the great organ is quite unlike the modern stop of that name. It is, in fact, a metal stopped diapason, having been originally the first rank of an old "mounted cornet" which, for some reason or other, has been removed. The stopped diapasons, also of metal as far as tenor F, have small tubes projecting from the caps of the pipes. "Flûte à cheminée" is the name given to this stop by French builders. The chorus of the great organ is brilliant and fine, but its effect is almost lost in its present position. Perhaps the best place for hearing it, strange as it may seem, is the crypt. For the sound is so compressed into the aisle in which the organ stands, and reflected backwards into the south transept, that its intensity in those parts of the church has a most unpleasant effect; while in the rest of the building the natural consequence is that a dull and muffled roar takes the place of the dignified solemnity of tone which the organ once possessed. Its original place was over the choir-screen, where its huge bulk towered aloft into the lantern, and was unquestionably a great disfigurement to the church. But having been built for that position, its removal to another was impossible without sacrificing for the organ what was gained for the church. An example of the effect of this

change is afforded by the choir organ, which was formerly placed in a separate case on the eastern side of the large mass, and behind the organist's seat. It was thus within a few feet of the choristers, while all its sound was reflected towards them by the great case which nearly filled up the arch behind it. In this position it is obvious that a very few stops would be ample for purposes of accompaniment, while any great development of this portion of the organ would be useless, as its sound could scarcely reach the body of the church at all. It is not therefore to be wondered at that it should be found insufficient now that it is removed farther from the voices, incorporated with the rest of the organ, and required to sound through the whole church. It has only four stops, one of which, the flute, had been removed in 1848 to make room for a Cremona, and has now been replaced, without any great addition to the volume of sound.<sup>4</sup> These defects, which take away so much from the effect of an instrument good in other respects, are to be attributed to change of position, and were therefore unavoidable in the present arrangement. But not so another fault of recent introduction, namely, the overpowering force of the swell, which, though it extends only to tenor C, has four reeds, one of them a rather noisy double stop, and is sufficient almost to drown the great organ. Whether this exaggeration of power is due to the acoustical properties of the building, or simply to the increase of the swell, is doubtful; but it is clear that by its presence the effect of muffled roar, which is now the characteristic of the instrument, is very much increased. It seems not improbable that if the money spent on the alterations had been devoted to those parts of the instrument which need it most, instead of the more showy, but less essential department of the swell, a better effect would have been produced. Moreover, most authorities would prefer the addition of a proper bass to the original swell to

<sup>4</sup> This stop has been kindly given back by Mr. Robson, after lying for thirteen years in his warehouse.

loading it with more stops in the upper part. Probably the undue preponderance complained of would not be so manifest, or perhaps would disappear altogether, if the remainder of the organ were proportionately reinforced. It is a thankless task to find fault, especially where there is so much to praise as in Wimborne Minster; but it would not be fair to omit the defects while noticing all the beauties. Only one more question remains to be asked about the organ. Who is responsible for putting sham pipes in the front, when space is understood to have been a matter of great consequence?<sup>5</sup>

We now turn naturally to the services of the church, of which, after all, the organ is merely an appendage of secondary importance, and not the essential part which it is too often taken to be. This church holds the first rank among those of the county as being the only one where the choral service of the English church has been continued, with slight interruptions, ever since the Reformation; and

<sup>5</sup> The ill success of the plan adopted in the present instance, as far as the sound of the organ is concerned, may lead us to the reflection that there is a problem in church arrangement still unsolved, namely, how shall we best dispose of a large organ in a church that was not built to contain it? A sacrifice on one side or the other appears inevitable; either you must mar the beauty of the building in order to get the full effect of the organ, or you must preserve its proportions intact at the cost of giving up all idea of obtaining more than second-rate music from, perhaps, a first-rate instrument. There seems to be no escape from this alternative; the question is, which of the two evils is it better to choose? Those who have to decide the point in individual cases will, of course, be guided by their own tastes; but the common sense view of the matter appears to be, that if you have already a large organ, or if you wish for all the aids which such an instrument, properly handled and properly heard, can give to the services of the church, you must not hesitate to fill up, or disfigure, if you will, some part of your building with its bulk to obtain them. But if, on the other hand, you consider architectural propriety of paramount importance, make up your mind at once to do without a large organ; have one of the

smallest size that will suffice for accompaniment, so that wherever it is placed it will be no obstruction; and do not attempt to cram a large one into a hole where it has no room to speak. For money spent on an organ that cannot be heard properly is only thrown away, and the less you throw away on it the better. This principle may, of course, be carried too far, as in certain recent experiments, which have had for their object the reduction of the organ to a state of primitive simplicity; the result being a meagreness and poverty of tone but little worthy of all the trouble in speaking and writing which has been bestowed on the scheme. There is no reason why a church-organ should be reduced in efficiency below an ordinary chamber-organ in a private house. The rule, then, that where there is not room for a large instrument to make itself heard properly no more should be used than is absolutely necessary, must always have this limitation: that simplicity is not to be carried so far that dignity is altogether sacrificed to it. In planning a new church the difficulty can be more easily avoided; but our ancestors, when they built their churches, did not reckon on their being required to contain a piece of furniture often as large as a moderate sized house.

this with the hearty good will of the people, and certainly with no ill effect on the parish. We have no distinct account of the manner in which it was kept up till the year 1600 ; but entries such as the following (1593), show that at all events it had not then fallen into disuse :—

“ For eight and a half ells of hollend to make a surpliss for the orgenyst, 21s. 3*d*.

“ For thirty-one and a half ells of Dowlis, at 20*d*. the ell, to make six Surplisses for Boyes, 52s. 6*d*. And for making them, 12s.”

The following very curious memorandum, or order of the governors, bears the date October 26th, 43 Eliz. (1600), and is interesting as showing the comparative limits which were then thought reasonable for the different parts of the service :—

“ It is agreed touching the Quire, that the ministers shall always begin their service on Sundays and holidays at 8 of the clock, and end at 10 of the clock in the forenoon ; not omitting the Litany except on special occasions. And the lecturer shall begin his sermon at 10 of the clock, and end at 11. And evensong shall begin at 2 of the clock, and end at 3 ; and the lecturer shall (if he then preach) begin at 3 and end at 4 at the farthest.

“ And every servitor shall attend in a decent surplice ; namely :—

Thomas Noble the organist,

Mr. Toogood and Wm. Adams the 2 basses,

Wm. Ffysherman and . . . . the 2 counter-tenors,

John Dale and Thomas Noble the 2 tenors,

And four queristers to be provided.”

A punctual attendance is moreover required, and all absentees are to be reported and fined. Isolated notices are all that can be gleaned from the records till the time of the Great Rebellion, during which we must, of course, infer that the choir disappeared for a time. Indeed, the phraseology of the accounts gives a very fair idea of the state of matters at this period, though there is no detailed record. Thus, instead of the ringers' wages for ringing “all in,” the usual phrase for ringing for service, we find payments to two men for ringing the great bell for sermon. Instead of Christmas, we have first Christide, to get rid of the objectionable syllable “mas,” and soon the 25th of December.

Then the bias of Wimborne in favour of the royal cause may perhaps be indicated by the fact that the king's arms were not taken down till the year after his death ; while even as soon as 1657 some agitation seems to have been commenced for the restoration of the old services in the church ; and the return of the king, three years later, was immediately followed by the re-establishment of all the ancient customs, and the replacement of the royal arms. The choral service seems to have been started at once, and within three years more a rate was levied on the whole parish for the purchase of a new organ. The service has been maintained, with slight changes, to the present day. It is celebrated only on Sundays, and occasionally on holy-days, and the chanting or intoning of the prayers has been left off ("lately," Mr. Hutchins tells us) ; but in other respects the practice of most English cathedrals is strictly followed. First-rate excellence is, of course, not to be expected ; and there is undoubtedly room for improvement here, as there is in many choirs of greater pretensions : but on the whole the duties of public worship are performed in a way which is no discredit to the noble building of which Wimborne has so much reason to be proud. It were well if this could be said of many other large churches ; examples must occur only too readily to the recollection of every one, where such a description would be very far from the truth. We must not omit to mention that no inconvenience has been found to result here from the non-adoption of the Calvinistic practice of exchanging the surplice for a gown during the sermon ; and that not the smallest injury has been produced thereby on either the doctrine of the preacher, or the attentiveness of the congregation.

CHAPTER X.—*Cinque-cento and Modern Work.*  
*The Restorations.*



MOST mediæval churches of any size contain some memorials of the Jacobean era, either in wood or stone work. Wimborne could, as we have before noticed, till lately boast of a complete set of stall-work of the reign of James I, and still retains great part of it. It also has a very fine mural monument, in the Renaissance style, to Sir Edmund Uvedale, knight, who died in 1606; and whose widow, as the inscription quaintly tells us, “in dolefull duty erected this monument.” Those who still abhor the Gothic style, and prefer adhering to the established forms of sepulchral memorials, would do well to compare this work, in their own favourite style, with the mongrel and semi-pagan devices with which modern taste disfigures our churches and burial-grounds, and profit by the comparison. Whatever the faults of this composition may be, it certainly does not show any leaning to these absurdities. It consists of a solid base rising about four feet from the ground, and projecting eighteen or twenty inches from the wall, having at each end a Corinthian column of dark marble, supporting a moulded cornice and entablature. Between the columns is the tablet bearing the inscription, surrounded by bands of flowers and other devices, and below this, reclining on the upper part of the solid base, is the figure of the knight himself, in which the chief interest of the work centres. This piece of sculpture would be no disgrace to any age of art, and is remarkably good for the time at which it was done, being free from much of the ungainly stiffness which is the usual characteristic of English works of that period. The knight is represented in full plate armour, lying on his right side, and holding his gauntlets in the left hand. But though the working out

of the details of the armour and the flesh is excellent, the expression of the whole figure is far more striking. If it be viewed from a position slightly above it—as on the choir steps—the meaning is more fully realized. The old warrior is represented as in the act of waking from his last long sleep; his head is raised slightly from his right hand, on which it has been resting, and the whole figure is in harmony with the expression of the face—in every line of which the stern energy of the soldier is blended with the humble hope of the Christian in obedience to the summons of the last great day. This may be all imaginary; but if it be so, a singularly slight effort of imagination is enough to produce the impression on the observer; while, if this was in reality the sculptor's idea, we must not deny him the credit of having embodied it admirably in the marble. The effigy has suffered a serious mutilation in the loss of both feet; in other respects it is quite perfect, and has lately, together with the rest of the monument, been thoroughly cleaned and decorated with gilding and colour so as to resemble its original self as nearly as possible. It is to be noted that a piece of the cornice of the monument just above the feet was wanting, having apparently been struck off by a blow. The monument formerly stood in the south-choir aisle, near the tower; and it has been ingeniously suggested that when the spire fell the same stone might have broken both the cornice and the feet. There is only one objection to this mode of exculpating the parliamentary soldiers, to whose charge this injury has been laid, as every damage invariably is that cannot readily be accounted for; namely, that when the spire fell the monument was not yet erected.

Another monument, in memory of Thomas Hanham, who died in 1650, and Penelope his wife, represents the couple kneeling at a desk placed between them. It is very far inferior to the last in design and workmanship, though not below the average of works of its date. None of the other monuments deserve special notice. There is a considerable



number of them ; but they probably do not exceed either in ugliness or beauty those which may be found in almost every church 200 years old. Perhaps the following inscription on a small brass plate, now fixed to the wall in the south choir-aisle, ought not to be passed over as a specimen of the wit latent in Wimborne as long ago as 1587 :—

“ Here lieth William Smith, bachelor in divinitie, and sometime schoolmaster and fellow of Eton Colledge, and now viker of Sturminster Marshall and preacher of Winbourn, who died the 15 of September A.D. 1587.”

There is another brass plate in the same aisle, of nearly the same date, bearing a long rhyming epitaph on Eleanor Dickinson, of which all that need be said is that it is not worse than some more modern productions of the same kind in the church.

A bold and handsome brass eagle, bearing the date 1623, stands at the entrance to the choir. It has lately been provided with a new brass pedestal of suitable solidity.

An entry in the accounts informs us that in the year 16— the churchwardens made an expedition to Christchurch for the purpose of getting the pattern of the font at that place to make their own by. This might seem fatal to the antiquity of the font at present in use here, which is at all events dubious, but for the fact that it is unlike that at Christchurch. The explanation probably is that they wished to re-erect their font on a new plan, and most likely carried out their scheme by removing it into the south choir-aisle, making steps for it to stand on, removing the shafts which support it, and placing it on a solid base. A dome-shaped cover was then provided for it, and in this form it remained till the commencement of the restorations. The alterations made in subsequent ages, in various parts of the church, have been almost without exception for the worse. Some have been already noticed ; the most conspicuous of the others was perhaps the closing up of the sides of the choir, and covering it with a plaster ceiling. The middle arch on each side was filled with an open oak



screen with doors, imported from abroad at some expense. The easternmost arches were glazed, and the others had been long ago walled up, so that the sound could escape only by the tower arch, the greater part of which was blocked up by the organ and screen. The choir-aisles and crypt were at the same time surrendered entirely to damp and decay. Those who possessed influence in the place appropriated large or small areas of the church according to their powers, and encumbered them with huge edifices under the name of pews. Much space having been sacrificed in this way, galleries were erected in various parts of the building, two of which still disfigure the transepts. The whole church was whitewashed, and in most places covered with plaster. About thirty years ago, when the revival of Gothic architecture had not yet commenced in earnest, an attempt was made to put the church in a better condition ; but its results were, as might be expected, by no means satisfactory, though the intention was doubtless good. A wooden perpendicular window-frame was inserted in the arch of the western tower, and filled with ground glass, thus excluding the ringing-loft, which had been brought down from its proper level by the destruction of the vaulting. The nave was ceiled with plaster, crossed by ribs with painted and gilt bosses at their intersections ; the aisles were also covered with a plain ceiling, which entirely shut out from the view the windows of the Norman clerestory. At the same time the church was repaved, and repewed, due respect being had to the more powerful intruders. Many of the more serious defects were, however, left untouched. One injury done to the church of late years would be incredible were not its results visible at this day. To the disgrace of those who perpetrated such a job, let it be recorded that men were employed to chip the even surface of the stones of the choir walls into notches and cover them with plaster, on which plaster sham divisions of stones were carefully ruled. The face of the stones is therefore irreparably damaged, and will always bear the marks of the sacrilegious

chisel. There was not the smallest excuse to be found in the roughness of the masonry, which may even now be seen to be very evenly jointed.

A brief sketch of the restorations which have lately been completed will fitly conclude the history of the church. As a consequence of the inquiries and law-suits rendered necessary by the state of the governors' affairs, with the merits of which we are not now concerned, a sum of money was laid aside for the repair of that part of the church for which they are responsible, namely, all eastward of the central tower; and in the summer of 1855 measures were taken for carrying out this order by closing up with a brick wall the eastern arch of the central tower, and those of the aisles adjoining it on each side. The chancel aisles were then entirely rebuilt, and the foundations of the choir walls underpinned and made good; in the crypt, where the excavation had been carried so far below their level, a support of solid masonry was introduced underneath, so as to guard against any farther settlement, while all defects in the walls were repaired, and the north window completed. The gable of the choir was restored to its original pitch, new roofs of high pitch were placed on the aisles, as well as on the choir, and the floors relaid throughout, in the aisles with stone, in the choir with Minton's encaustic tiles. At the same time the stalls were reduced in number and placed at a lower level, their canopies being removed, so as to allow a free view of the choir from the organ, which was placed against the back wall of the south aisle. The ascent to the east end from the nave was thus divided into three stages instead of two, which alteration perhaps gives it greater dignity, though the space of the choir is seriously broken up by a flight of steps in the middle, which was restored from fragments before mentioned as existing. The roofs of the aisles are open, that of the choir being shut out by an arched ceiling, with moulded ribs, and bosses of foliage at their intersections. All are of stained deal, and covered

with lead. The seats which have been placed in the aisles are of oak, for the most part supplied by the remains of the old roofs. The vestry and library have also undergone a complete renovation, the vaulting of the former having been cleaned from whitewash, and the windows of both restored; the roof of the library was taken off<sup>9</sup> and replaced, and the old shelves removed. The floors are newly laid with coloured tiles.

A great part of the picturesque effect of the eastern part of the church is no doubt due to the fact that all its windows are filled with stained glass. The eastern triplet had been adorned in this manner some years ago, at the expense of the late Mr. Banks; the centre light having some excellent glass brought from a suppressed convent abroad; the remaining windows, nine in number, besides the small clerestory lights in the choir, have been gradually filled with modern glass of considerable merit since the completion of the restorations, one, and part of another, by subscription, the remainder by gifts from private individuals.

When the works in the eastern half had progressed sufficiently to show something of their probable effect, it became evident that the contrast between this and the unrestored parts of the church would be too striking; a movement was therefore set on foot for securing the extension of the improvements to the nave and towers, and with such industry and success that the alterations were at once proceeded with. The service, which had been performed in the nave, was transferred to the grammar-school for the time, and the whole church came under the hands of the workmen. The result of a minute examination showed, as is too often the case, that very serious defects had been far too long neglected, and no time was lost in making a thorough reparation. The clerestory of the nave was removed entirely, and the pier-arches supported by timber centres and frames. The columns were then successively

<sup>9</sup> It may seem almost incredible that books were allowed to lie piled on the floor, covered only by a tarpaulin.

taken down and rebuilt, fortunately without the smallest accident to the superstructure. The lantern-tower was thoroughly repaired and cleaned, the cracks in the walls being mended as well as circumstances would permit, and the ceiling receiving, in place of its coat of whitewash, a decoration of brilliant colours. The western tower underwent a similar process, its sides being supported the while with massive struts of timber. The replacement of the west window and door, and the reconstruction of the vaulting were tasks of considerable delicacy, not to say danger ; but fortunately no untoward accident marred the success of the work. A large part of the south-eastern pier was cut out and rebuilt, having become seriously decayed. The removal of the masonry showed that the old west wall had been incorporated in the pier, and brought into view the respond or corbel which carried the westernmost arch of the nave ; thus proving beyond all doubt that no former tower ever stood on the site of this one. The bells were not re-hung on this occasion, though two were added to their number ; provision had been made for the increase of the peal when a new frame was constructed a few years ago. The staircase of this tower, as well as that of the lantern, is in a very bad state ; the steps, which are nearly worn through in some places, are mended with pieces of wood. It seems doubtful whether the looseness of the masonry would ever allow a thorough reconstruction. The nave and aisles have been newly roofed with deal, and covered with lead, in the former case by the liberality of a neighbouring gentleman. The roof of the nave is made with hammer-beams, in divisions corresponding to the five bays of the altered clerestory. Those of the aisles are made open, and allow the exterior of the small Norman clerestory windows, over which they are carried, to be seen from below, their inner side being left open to the nave. The whole of the church has been fitted with seats of solid oak, the old pews having disappeared altogether ; and light has been supplied by brass gas-standards of two and three

branches, of very neat design.<sup>10</sup> A heating apparatus has been placed in a chamber excavated for the purpose under the floor near the north door, from which hot-water pipes ramify over the whole church. The plan has been found to produce as much warmth as could possibly be desired. Seven stained glass windows have been placed in the nave, including the great west window, by private gift; so that a good proportion of the church is supplied with these most beautiful ornaments.

The cost of the entire works has been about £7500, divided in about equal shares between the two parts of the church. This includes the heating apparatus, but not the stained windows, organ, new bells, chimes, and numerous smaller gifts made by private individuals.

All the works having been brought to a conclusion, the church was solemnly re-opened for public worship on St. Michael's day, 1857, the Bishops of Salisbury and Oxford being present, and more than a hundred clergy in their surplices. The day has since been kept as an anniversary in remembrance of the work, and is intended to be so kept in future. It will serve to remind the people of Wimborne of the privilege they enjoy in having this holy and beautiful house in the midst of them, hallowed by the worship of their forefathers through so many generations, and of their obligation to guard it as a costly treasure against injury either from rapine or neglect.

<sup>10</sup> The only part of the church which has not yet been lighted is the chancel; which is left in total obscurity. The

church necessarily loses much in appearance by the darkness of this its finest part.



## APPENDIX.

**T**HE following series of extracts from the accounts of the churchwardens will be read with interest by all who study the domestic history of England in the Middle Ages; and, of course, with greater interest by those whose own immediate ancestors are concerned in the contents of these pages. For any inhabitant of Wimborne will not fail to notice names with which he is familiar appearing in these imperfect annals of the town nearly 400 years ago. And it is not only as a store of details of the every-day relations of a parish to its church that these accounts are valuable, but also as records of the practical working of the peculiar form of government of this parish, which, perhaps, has but few counterparts. In the first place, even under the rule of the dean and canons, this was the parish church; an arrangement in itself uncommon: and, after the dissolution of the college, replaced by one still more singular. The tithes of the parish, instead of belonging to a clerical or lay rector, are vested in a self-elected oligarchical body of the parishioners, whose duty it is to dispense them for the benefit of the remainder, in maintaining the services of the church and the grammar-school. This would appear to be a dangerous system of government, both from the liability of such a body to undue pressure from without, or from its more powerful members within, and from the risk of having any one section or class of opinions too exclusively represented. The former cause, as was before hinted, has operated injuriously in past time: the latter will not have any disastrous effect so long as the circumstances of the town remain as they are at present; the number of substantial men resident in the parish not being large enough to furnish a complete set of any one class of opinions.

These accounts furnish us with valuable information as to the respective shares of the parish and the governors in the regulation

and expense of matters connected with the church; and it is much to be regretted that a more ancient account-book, going back at all events as far as 1413, which would have doubtless given us information of still greater interest, is missing. The writer who contributed an enlarged account of Wimborne to the last edition of Hutchins' History (1803), evidently had access to this, as well as to some other papers which have also disappeared; but the Rev. Peter Hall, the latest historian, the whole of whose details are drawn without acknowledgment or verification from this edition of Hutchins, does not appear to have seen them. These earlier records would give us some account of the later additions to the fabric of the church, and the parts which the college and the parish took in them; while those which we now possess take us back to within ten years from the completion of the last portion of the edifice—the western tower. Unless, therefore, some piece of good fortune should bring to light the lost papers, we must be content with the sketch of the domestic and parochial history of Wimborne which is afforded by what is left.

The earlier parts of the accounts are written in Latin, much abbreviated, and with a few English words intermixed. The sprinkling of English gradually increases, till it usurps the place of the Latin altogether. The accounts for the year appear to have been first made up, and then written out fair in the book by an experienced scribe, whose fee occurs as a yearly charge. The entries in Latin have, in most cases, been translated, and the old spelling and abbreviations altered when they would be unintelligible to the general reader.

Many entries will be found which have no amount attached to them; this occurs when either the numbers are illegible, or when several items are entered together, the sum only being given.

The “Wife of the Country” and “Wife of the Town” respectively appear to have been women who made and sold cakes for the benefit of the church, in the same way as the beer was sold. A detailed list of the other usual sources of income, dated 1573, will be found on page 105, and need not be repeated here.

It appears that great pains were taken to prevent persons from claiming any property in a seat-place in the church; as in the memorandum on page 112.

In the interval 1550-1560, the accounts are wanting altogether; as also in part of the corresponding period of the following century.



EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCH-  
WARDENS OF WIMBORNE MINSTER FOR  
200 YEARS, FROM 1475.

VOLUME I. 1475—1580.

PAGE (HEADING.)

1. "Wymborn Mynster. Compotus Joh<sup>is</sup> Gonerre et Thome Brice, Custod' Bonorum Ecclesiæ S<sup>te</sup> Cuthburge Virginis ibidem, a festo Omnium Sanctorum anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1475, usque idem festum extunc proxim' sequen', viz<sup>t</sup> per unum annum integrum."

Recept'.—

1. Arrears handed over from old church-wardens, xix *li*.
2. Rents of Assize (small payments from various houses in the town), xliijs. viij *d*.
3. By oblations (small sums brought on Saints' days "to the feet of St. Cuthberga," St. Lawrence, &c.), xxxjs.
4. By legacies of goods (afterwards called "quests," *i. e.* bequests). The value of a brazen pot (*olle enee*), the value of a heifer, of a sheep, &c.
2. 5. By the hire of the brewing leads (*plumb'*). These were kept at the church, and let out by the church-wardens for the benefit of the parish.
6. By fees for burial in the church, s. 6. 8. each person.
7. By "venditio stauri mort'," *i. e.* selling of stores of deceased persons, probably of articles bequeathed to the church. For a girdle set with silver, vjs. viij *d*.; for a silver ring, vij *d*. Two porkers, &c.
8. By the profits of a "taberna cerevisiæ," *i. e.* for the sale of beer in a shop, for the benefit of the church, vj *li*. The profits of the "church ale" are mentioned every year. Sum total of the receipts for this year, £. 35. 18. 7.

Expenses for the same year (this page is imperfect). Payments for work about a tenement in the "Cokerewe" (now called Cook-row).

Paid to the Dean, for St. Peter's penny.

3. — for mending the stock of one bell; for mending the wheel of the little bell; for two straps, a staple, &c. for the said bell; for rope for the bell called "Cuthbert's bell."



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3. Paid for the workmen for drink ("ad bibend'"), *ij d.*
  - for cleansing the gutters of the bell-tower.
  - for 19 lb. of wax against the feast of St. Mary.
  - at the obit of Nicholas Manstiche, *6 d.* yearly.
  - for Easter wax in the choir, before St. Mary, *iijs. viij d.*
  - for making *ij* new torches, *iijs. j d.*
  - for keeping the clock (*orelegii*) and lighting of sundry lamps in the church, per ann. *iijs. iiij d.*
  - for mending one book of the said church, *xx d.*
4. "The said church-wardens have—two silver basins, four silver 'broches,' one crucifix of silver gilt, in a tabernacle, one crucifix with Agnus Dei, an image of St. James in silver, ten silver buttons."
5. The church-wardens receive the fair-tolls on the Sunday after the feast of St. Cuthberga within the churchyard.  
 Paid to the Dean of the church for St. Peter's and St. Mary's offerings at Easter, *vjs. viij d.*
  - to the said Dean for a tenement in the market of Wymborne, and a small house at the west end of the church, *xij d.* To the King for a tenement within the town, and to the lord of Hampreston for a tenement called "St. Mary House," *xx d.*
  - for mending the windows of the church, beyond "Constary place," (probably the Consistory court.)
  - for a lock for the clock-house door.
  - for *viij* virg. of linen cloth bought to make *ij* altar cloths, together with the hemming and crossing of the same (to be paid per yard *vj d. ob.*), *iijs. vj d.*
  - for new doors, "ostios de Caley's,"\* within the church, and at St. Mary house, *ijs.*
  - to Robert Conynge for the "kervynge" (carving) in the Rode-loft, *vjs. viij d.*
  - for thread called "maccheyerne," *i. e.* match-yarn, for making the torches, *vj d.*
  - for one dozen of resin bought to make torches.
6. — for roofing at the worke-house.  
 A.D. 1495 (11 Hen. VII.)
9. Paid R<sup>d</sup> Gilbert for mending the organs in the chapel of St. Mary, and for "naylys, gymowys, and glyw" (nails,

\* No reasonable conjecture can be offered as to what is the meaning of "Caley's," or "Calys," which is constantly mentioned.

AGE

hinges, and glue), *xiv d.*; and to John Harris of Cristchurch for mending the said organs, *x s.*

9. Paid to Thomas Grene for "glyw" and "lether" for the organs in the Rode-loft, *xj d.*
  - to Simon Bedman (*i. e.* the bede-man or sexton), for cleansing the church, *v d.*
  - for a new cord for the clock, *viiij d.*
  - to George Chanderler for making a new "ymage" before King Harry.
  - for one baudrych (baldrick, or strap) for the bell in the spire, *ij d.*
0. — for mending the windows in the south aisle at the east end of the church: in "Trinity eyle;" in "St. George's eyle."
- for timber for the church-style—the church-house—the house at the church-style; for repairing of Clement Germayne's house—for a new chimney—for "bredyng, dawbyng, and pargettyng."
1. — for repairing the "schamelleyes" (shambles); for board, straw, thatching, &c.

Received rent for a cottage called the "dede-house."

— (among other legacies) one napkin of diaper.

2. Goods of the church:—an image of St. Cuthbert; 100 pair of "bedys stones silver and gilt;" one dagger; one silver spoon; a girdle; a missal, given by Master Walter Hart, Dean.

Rent paid to the Dean for the church-house, *xiiij d.*; for two shops in the "Cook-rew," *v s.*; for St. Mary-house, *xx d.*

13. Paid for a slab of alabaster for the altar of St. Nicholas, *xij d.*

Repairs at St. Mary-house. New "Epicaustorium" (boiler?). Stone and sand (*sabilon*) from Kingston. A cartload of "Aler pyles." A "mantel" at Clement's house. For "castyng doune de lapid'" (perhaps stone for a road.)

4. For a new chimney at Laurence Joachym's house; for dawbing and frethyng. "Gemowys for le schamellys" (hinges for the shambles). The tanner's shop. New bell for the "bed-man."

Paid to Richard Gylbert keeper of the organs, *ijs. viij d.*

Received from the "nundinæ cum pixide Henrici regis," *xxxij s. viij d.* (The market-tolls and King Harry's box; these constantly occur as sources of revenue.)

Profits of beer sold, £.4. 16. 8.

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15. Received from John Newborough 6*d.* for a cottage called the "dead-house."

Oblations.—At the Conception of St. Mary, iv*d.*; at the Purification, xvij*d.*; at the Annunciation, ij*d.*; at the Assumption, iv*d.*; at the Nativity, xxxj*d.*; increment of St. Mary's offerings, iv*s.* vij*d.*

Legacies.—By my Lady the King's Moder (Margaret Countess of Richmond and Derby), ij torches. Philip Hough, xij*d.* Christine Cousins, a silver ring. Richard Westcote, a silver girdle.

Memorandum.—"That on this day of account Roger Draper came and took of the whole parish one meadow near Lyghe park for twenty-one years; and is bound to render to the church-wardens (custodes bonorum) of the church of St. Cuthberga the virgin for the time being, whosoever they may be, four shillings and sixpence yearly, and all other services," &c.

16. 12 Henry VII. A.D. 1496.

Paid for wax lights for the Purification, Christmas, and Easter; for wood, meat, and drink, and the "Macchyarne," xv*s.* ob.

- for celebrating one mass for the dead, iv*s.* iv*d.*
- the bell-ringers, ij*s.* iij*d.*
- for mending the "belwys" (bellows) of the organs, iv*s.* jd.
- for small cords for the Lent-cloth.
- for wyre to the chyme, jd.
- for washing of church cloths, and cloths of the Rood-loft, viij*d.*
- for rope for the Sanctus-bell, ix*d.*
- the two sub-sacristans, for keeping the clock, and lighting the church.

17. Repairs at Walter Barbar's house. "Item, payd to the thaccher and h<sup>e</sup> man, xx*d.*"

For platters, and "drynkyng dysschys," xij*d.*

"For ij dosyn treyn dysschys," (*i. e.* two dozen wooden dishes.)

It<sup>m</sup> for mendyng of pannys, payd to the tynker, iv*d.*

Mendyng of the "coterells" at Seynt Mary house.

18. Rents received by the church-wardens:—

From John Newborough for one cottage called the dead-house, vid*.*; Thomas Bryce for the Grene-stret, vjd*.*; John May for sundry parcels of land late John Cole's, v*s.*; Lawrence Joachym, v*s.*; William Taylor, iij*s.*; John Abbot,

GE

- iijs.; one tenement in Cokrew, vjs. viij *d.*; Clement Corneser, xiijs.; for the church-house in the church-yard, ivs.; Nicholas Horton for a garden, xij *d.*; the Tanner's shop, ivs.; William Tanner, ijs.; Roger Draper for ground near Lygh Park, ivs. vj *d.*; for the loan of a lead, xx *d.*; Nicholas Horton for a shop, iv *d.*

The profits of the fair, xxiijs. vj *d.* ob. From the "Pixis," or box of King Harry, ijs. ix *d.* Profits of beer sold, iv *li.* vjs. viij *d.*

1. 14 Henry VII. A. D. 1498.

The church-wardens pay out of the oblations made on St. Stephen's day, Easter day, and Whit-Monday—

To the Sacristan, xii *d.*

— four Vicars, ijs. ij *d.*

— two Chantry-priests, xij *d.*

— four Secondaries, xij *d.*

— two clerks, xij *d.*

For the "jentaculum" of two priests, xij *d.*

Received on the day of the Purification, from the pixis of St. Cuthberga, ix *d.*; from the pixis of King Harry, ijs.; and from St. Mary offrynges, xvj *d.*

Paid for castyng of "the Bedman hys belle," xx *d.*

— for mendyng of the orgonys, xvij *d.*

— for 46 lb. of wax, at 8 *d.*, "for makyng of lyghts against Candlemas."

2. A great many rings of silver given, chiefly by women.

Received "of the one wyffe for cakys, xxxiv s.; of the other wyffe for cakys, iij *li.*"

1. Paid to the quere at Xtmass, vjs.

— for scowring of the "goterrys" (gutters) upon the church.

3. A. D. 1499.

Paid for a clue of worsted to make an apron for S<sup>t</sup>. Cuthberga, ivs. vj *d.*; and four yards of green silk.

(A great deal of carpenter's work and plastering done about this time—apparently at the Church.)

Paid for 10lbs. of "macheyern": for making the paschall and vault taper, key for the church-yard gate, and for the storehouse in the care of "le Bedman."

7. Legacy of Laurence Wen<sup>r</sup>: forty pence, for a bell to be tolled every day for a month at his death.

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## 31. A.D. 1503.

Paid to the priests, vicars, &c. at "Crystysmas, Est<sup>r</sup>, and Wytsoneday", (three times a year according to the custom of this Church,) *xxs. vjd.*

— for one pound of weke-yarne (wick-yarn).

— for keveryng of the grave of Margaret Holkome, *ij s.*

## 32. — for washing altar-cloths and towels, and scowring of candlesticks.

— chief-rents of the house at the Church-end, *xiiid.*; of the yelde-hall (guild-hall) and S<sup>t</sup> Mary house, *xxd.*

— to the port-reeves for shops.

Gave to the Crowne lyght, *6d.*

Received—of the two wives for cakes.

"Quests" (legacies). From John Canon the value of half an ox and two sheep; John Porter, a quarter of a calf: Edward Cliffe, a sheep and a half: Margaret Ashton, a brass pot; Richard "that come from Taraunte," *vjs. viij d.*; a priest of Poole, *vjs. viij d.*

33. Paid for repairs of the "cofer in Calys," *vd.*

— load of frethe for Killingworth his garden, *xijd.*

— for making of y<sup>e</sup> hegge (hedge), *viij d.*

— to the clerk for "keveryng the Seynts," *jd.*

— for the paynting of the "warke" awter.

34. — to the Bedman for strekyng of the Church agenst Cuthbert's Sunday, *ijd.*35. — to the Quire S<sup>t</sup> Stephen his day, *vjs. viij d.*

— for a new wheel to Cuthbert's bell: a googyng (gudgeon) and nayles.

## A.D. 1505. 21 Henry VII.

"For making clene of the Chyrche-yard agenst the Kyng his coming," *xvjd.*

36. For tylling of a bell and for sewte of corte (suit of court) to Preston, *ijd. ob.*

Item payde for tymber of John Bowke for sylyng in (ceiling in) owre Lady Chappell, *ij s. viij d.*

— to Richard Habgood for wenescotte to the same, *xjs.*

37. Received the price of ij Ewys, the gift of Long Harry of little Hinton, *ijs. ijd.*

Paid for mendyng and pavyng of the belfray, and for breke (brick), *iv d.*

38. — for digging of a pitt to set the trystylls of the shamylls, *xd.*

B

Paid for a spade-tree for the Bedeman.

— for “tūyng” (tuning or turning\*) of the second bell,  
ijs. viij*d*.

— for poyntyng of iij perche upon Calys and St. Mary House,  
ivs.

— for xiv lb. of “bolen wax,” and vij lb. of “mede waxe”  
bestowed upon the paschall and “faute” (vault) taper;  
xxxvi lb. of “bolen waxe” bestowed upon the tapers in  
the quire.

Paid to W. Horne for castyng of the belle iv *li*. iij*s*. iv*d*.

It<sup>m</sup> geve for his costs at hys fyrste coming, xx*d*.

Paid for a corporas xvij*s*. for two new towells, one at the  
“warke” awter, another in our Lady Chapell, viij*d*.

— for mending of a box to bear the Sacrament.

Paid for an elle of Sarsenette for the canopy, v*s*.

It<sup>m</sup> for a cord of viij fathom for the balance in the Yelde-  
hall, ij*d*.

. 2 Henry VIII. A.D. 1510.

— for making of the cofer, xxi*d*.

— for washing of the habylments, vij*s*. vj*d*.

— for takyng doune of a belle, xij*d*.: for carrying of the  
belle “owte and home,” vj*s*. ix*d*.: for casting, xxxvij*s*. iv*d*.:  
for iv men and iv horses owte and home, vij*s*. ij*d*.: for  
pewter (?) to the belle, ij*s*. vj*d*.: for hanging of ij belles,  
ijs. iij*d*.

— to the Kyng hys servant, for defawte of ryngyng at the  
Quene’s departyng.

— for making of a door by the Quire, xxii*d*.: for viij bordys,  
ijs. viij*d*.

— for naylys, hokys (hooks) and twysts, ijs. viij*d*.

— for mending of a hatch at S<sup>t</sup>. Mary house, ij*d*.: and for  
making of the gredyron there, x*d*.

— to the Crown light, iv*d*.: to the lampe light, 4*d*.

. Received a payr of Testamentys the gyft of Alys P. . .

— of the two wyves for cakys, v*li*. ✓

— of the Fayr, with the markette, xxxij*s*. iv*d*. ob. ✓

. A.D. 1516.

For naylys to the belle in the Spyre, ii*d*.

Paid for a crosse to bear at Lente.

\* A bell is turned half-way round when one part has become much indented by the pper.

## PAGE

45. Paid to the Orgyn-player, *iijs. ivd.*: for a manuell (manual or key-board of an organ?) *ijs. xd.*

“Quest.” Half a crocke; of the wife of John Scherme of Preston.

46. Memorandum. That there bethe *vj* brewing ledys; of the wyche *j* is in the hands of Tybaud Chanow; another with Edmond Olyver; another with Symon Hywode; another with William Garden; and *j* remaineth in the chyrche.

47. Paid for holy oyle, *xijd.*: to the orgyn-player, *xxd.*

It<sup>m</sup> for payntyng of Seynt Cuthberga, *ijs.*

— to the plom<sup>r</sup> (plumber) for the vestry, *xijs.*

— Masons’ work, stone, and other expenses about the vestry; scaffold, windows, &c.: three pieces of timber, and *16d.* for the carriage of them: It<sup>m</sup> to Knollys for felling of a Elme, *id.*

— for making of a pan to set colys (coals), *iijd.*

— for mending of capys and washing of albys.

49. — to a mason for the vestry, *xs.*

51. Received of the wife of the town, for cakys, *ivli. vjs. viiid.*  
the wife of the lande (lower down, the wife of the country), *ivli. xiijs. ivd.*

A.D. 1518.

54. “John Rekeman hath paid *x* pounds for the gilting of owre Lady with the images about her in owre Lady Chapel: for which *x* pounds he is discharged for ever, and no man shall put him nor charge him to be Churchman.”

Harry Canon hath geve to the reparacion of the Church, *xlvijs. viijd.* and is likewise discharged—in the presence of all the whole parish.

55. The church-wardens “delyver oppe in Golde, *xxivli. vjs. xd.* in Sylver, *xli. xviijs. ivd.*”

There is in the stock of the Crown light in gold and silver, *iiijli. xvijs. vjd. ob.*

57. Received from the first fair in Pympe-Hylle, *viijs. ijd. ob.*

— from the second, *vjs. ob.*: For graves in the Church, *vjs. viijd.* each.

Among the goods of the Church are—rings of silver; a gyrdle with 120 stodys (studs), another with 31 studs of silver; 4 “owchys” and one bokyll (buckle) of silver.

18 Hen. VIII. A.D. 1526.

(A little Latin re-appears here).

E

Received for the marketts, and Cuthborough Fair, *iv li.*

— of S<sup>t</sup> Mary's offerings and the 2 boxes at the "Warke awter."

Paid for lether to amend the organs, *iijs. iv d.*

— to the Pryst for mendyng of them, *iv s. iv d.*

— for plankys for a hewyng stocke for bochers (butchers), *iijs.*

— for 2 dozen of treen (*i. e.* wooden) platters.

— for holy oyle.

— for repayring the ii houses of the churchis.

— for iii procession days, *xvi d.*

— for helping of the rope of the paschal into the pulley and for ridding of the erthe round about the cherche, *xiv d.*

— for washing of the Rode-loft and of the Awters of Alabaster in the Church.

— for wex agenst Cuthbrogg-tyde to make our Lady lights and ij torches.

— for making of the light at Cuthbrow-tyde.

— a days working to cast plummetts for the organs, and weights in the Yelde Hall, and plummetts for the aulters, *viiij d.*

— for washing of ij long cloths that hangith byfore the tabyll alabaster.

— for the light at Easter in the quere, the paschall and the faut taper.

— for mending of the seetys by the church wall.

— for setting up the cloths afore the Rode-loft.

— for 2 painys in the plom-house and one at Rich<sup>d</sup>. Barber's, *vjd.*

— for stodys and roddys thereto, *vjd.*

. Paid to the Sexton for my Lord Deane, *xxxiijs. iv d.*

— — for portreeves rent, *iijs. iv d.*

— — for the Church House, *js. jd.*

— to Tho<sup>s</sup>. Baron for my Lord Daubeney, *js. xjd.*

— to the Sheriff for the Fairs of Pymphill, *vjs. viij d.*

. 19 Hen. VIII. 1527.

Paid to the Sexton and to the priests, clerks and other the servants of the church, above the offerings that was received on S<sup>t</sup>. Stephens day, Easter Monday and Whitson Tuesday, *viijs. iv d.*

— for wexe, macheyerne, and making of the lights agenst Xtnas and Candlemas.



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68. Paid to the ij Clerks for hanging up of the Lent Cloths upon Ashe Wednesday, *ijd.*
- to the somner for bringing of the holy oyle, *xijd.*
  - for ij grete tapers byfore the sepulker and other lyghtis for the quere, *vjs. vd.*
  - for a Towell of sylke to bere on the holy oyle Boxe, *ijs. vjd.*
  - for 2 loads of straw to thatch the tenements before the Christopher.
  - to my Lord Dawbeney for rent for the church House, *js. xjd.*
  - for a fyre croke to help draw down the houses that are aventured with fyre, *vd.*
  - for a wyre to hang the rode lofte cloth, *jd.*
  - for mending of a surplys, *vijd.*
  - to ij brasiars that com from Chrystchurge, *xijd.*
  - to the smyth of Ringwood for y<sup>e</sup> claper of S<sup>t</sup>. Cuthbroghe bell, *xijs.*
69. — for 6 tucking gurdyllys, *ijd.*
- for ij napkyns to our Lady awter.
  - for tymber and cariage thereof for the yelde hall.
71. Received for chief rent of a house against S<sup>t</sup>. Ellyn's Cross, *vjd.*
- for chief rent of Master Newboroughs land at Kingston, *vjd.*
  - of my Lord Dean for reparations of the ornaments yearly, *vjs. viijd.*
  - of the 4 Prebendaries for reparations of the books and vestments yearly, *xiijs. ivd.*
  - profits of Fairs, Friday markets, &c. for the year.
  - of Robert Towaley for the hyre of a brewing lead, *xvjd.*
73. Paid to the King for the rent of the new houses in the market place, *xviijs. viijd.*
- for the rent of the yelde hall, *iijs. ivd.*
  - to my Lord Dean for S<sup>t</sup>. Mary offering at Easter, *vjs. viijd.*
  - for rent of the market, *xxxiijs. ivd.*
  - for Portreeve's rent to the said Dean, *ivs. viijd.*
  - for church house chief rent, *js. jd.*
  - to my Lord Dawbeney for chief rent of S<sup>t</sup>. Marys house, house, *is. xjd.*
  - to the sheriff of Dorset for rent of ii fairs of Pymphill, *vjs. viijd.*
  - for a yearly Obit for John Heryng (20 March), *ivs. ivd.*

.GE

1. Paid to the somner for bryngyng home of the holy oyle from Sarum at Easter, *xij d.*
- to the Sexton (elsewhere called Sacristan) and residew of the Quire for iij processions upon S<sup>t</sup>. Stephens day, E. Monday and Whit Tuesday, above that we received, *v s. ix d.*
- for wax for paschall taper, a faut taper, 14 tapers in the quear, and ij sepultur tapers.
- for a prynt legend, *x s. iv d.*
- for ij buck skins to cover ij great books, *iijs. iv d.*
- for careage of the belle to Salsbere, *v s.*
- for new casting of the Clock Bell and new metal, *v li. ix s. viij d.*
- for hanging of the said Bell above that we gathered, *j s. iv d.*
- for a new gredyar (*i. e.* "gridiron") for S<sup>t</sup>. Mary House.
- for vij dozen treen dishes.
- for makyng of thys acompt, *iijs. iv d.*
- that was given to the poor peopyll of S<sup>t</sup>. Margetts, *iv d.*

Received for a gardyn lying by Redcotts, *xx d.*

1. — by a pair of amber beads sold, *ijs.*
2. Paid to y<sup>e</sup> organ-player, *vjs. viij d.* (occurs very often.)

530.

- for leying down of the leads after the great wynd, *lvjs.*
- For a pece of tymber to Robert and for squaring of it to make a molde to caste lead; with the carpenters wages, *vj d.*
3. Masons wages "for poynting of the spere," &c., *vj li. xiijs. v d. ob.*

Paid to the vestment maker for gren bokram, robens, (*i. e.* ribbons) tape, thread, and sylk, and xvj days wages, *xlijs. ix d.*

— to the ermyt for gravelyng of the market place, *iijs.*

"Upon the apron cxxxviij Rings, ij sponys (spoons) of sylver and iv great Buckylls of sylver and gilt."

531.

1. For a dozen poynts on Palm Sunday.
2. Paid for an image of S<sup>t</sup>. Barbara, *ix s.*
- mending of K. Harrys Box.
- for new makyng of the Clock bell with *vj c.* of new stuff, *ix li. vjs.*

(Mention of timber for S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's).

2. Received of Richard Waydle ffor the shrowds of the elms in S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's churchyard, *ijs. viij d.*

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84. Pair of small coral beads sold, *xx d.*
85. "Here foloweth such quytrents and yerely payments as the Churchmen pays." (Same as often before.)  
Paid for a new buckett to bere water to the holy water stock, *v d.*
86. The Haloyng of the Clock Bell, to the suffrygan.  
Paid for haloing of the Clock Bell, *vj s. viij d.*  
And for halowyng of the new pyx and chesybles with awter cloth, *xii d.*: and to the suffrygans servants, *viij d.*; and for iiij ells of lyn cloth for the Suffrygan, *xjs.*: and for ii ells of bockram and ii ells of ca $\bar{m}$ is, *xjs.*: and for frankynsence *iiij d.*: and for wyne and the Clerks labour, *iv s. viij d.*—Total *xiv s.*  
Payd for mendyng of the organs to John Vawckes, *xjs.*
87. Key for the font, and for the church box, *iv d.*  
The charges of the new organs, *ij li. viijs. vij d.*
90. Hire of brewing leads.  
To Fabian Pencyon, for covering of S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's Church, and mending the walls, and for stones, *xiijs. v d.*
91. Making of prycketts for the whole year.  
For a bar of iron to our Lady rodeloft weying *x li.*, *xij d.*
92. for a rope to the spere bell, *xxij d.*  
for making of a bar and a hanging lock and a key to the lyttyll organs, *viij d.*; an iron bar for the shalms, *viij d.*: for ratsbaan, and dressing of it, *iv d.*: for setting up of a bar to the great organs, *x d.*  
For carving of weynscot, *ix d.*  
For a shepe skyn and a pound of glu, *viij d.*  
To the organ maker for his labour, *ij s.*  
Paid to John Watman (he was "Churchman") for a journey to London by the space of *viij* days at *xx d.* a day for him and his hors, *xiijs. iv d.*  
A load of straw bestowed on *iiij* tenements next the Crystoffer, *ij s. iv d.*
93. New lock on the treser house door within the vestry.  
It<sup>m</sup> ffor fetting (fetching) down of a ladder from the stypull, *ij d.*  
To the bed man for blowing of the organs.  
For the den<sup>r</sup> (dinner) on the day of accompt, *x s.*  
For the lease of an ox that was Barnes's bequest, *xij d.*  
To Mr. Wyn for quit rent of a close in Poole Lane.
95. Received for a grave for an hermyt that died at the George, *vj s. viij d.*

GE

34.

1. Meade wax and bolleyn wax: poynts, pynys and whipcord for the canopy.

For skowryng of canstycks (candlesticks), *ij d.*

. a rope for the morrow-mas bell, *xx d.*

To a carpenter for making the pentyse (penthouse) on the Church, *xviiij d.*

To John Vaucks for mendyng of the great organs, &c., *ix s. iiij d.*

For makyng of a fyrepan for the vestry, *x d.*

. For *iiij* gymows (hinges) and a key for the long chest where the torches be, *viiij d.*

0. Rece<sup>d</sup>. of John Ryckman that he gathered for the organs, *vs. ij d.*

35.

1. Paid W<sup>m</sup>. Wyns Prebendary for chief rent of a close.

— for painting and gylting of the orlege.

— for mending the bellows of the great organs and for new ropes for the said bellows, *viiij d.*

2. for making of the chyme, *xiiij s. iv d.*

For a new holy water buckett, *iv d.*

Repairs on the north side of the body of the church (£4 6 2.)

5. The reast of makyng of the chyme, *xxiiij s. iv d.*

6. P<sup>d</sup> to John Vaucks for mendyng of the gret organs, *xxvs. iv d.*, for hys bord, *ivs. viij d.*, and to Thomas Wever to serve the said Vaucks, *ivs. ij d.*: for cools, *ij d.*, for mending of a stop and a new lock, *viiij d.*, for allome, *iv d.*, for shep skynnys, *xx d.*, for glu and small nayls, *iv d.*, for nayls for the skaffold, *iiij d.*, and for tallow candells *ij d.*—total *xlij s. vd.*

36.

For mending the barrell of the chymes, *ij d.*

To John Blandford in ernyst for to mend the towar, *v s.*

To John Blandford and others, “their costs to fett (*i. e.* fetch) the old Sexsten,” *viiij s. iv d.*

To the Brotherer (embroiderer) for to “by stoff; and for his labour for mending of the coopes (copes) and other stuff as vestments and other aparell,” *xlij s. viij d.*

For new cruetts for the vestry, *xij d.*

37.

8. Rec<sup>d</sup>. by the best Cros this year (occurs frequently: perhaps use of it at funerals).

9. Paid to master Doctor Wylson, Deane of Wymborne Mynster

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the Fine of a new "stat" had of the sayd Dean and the Chapter to the Churchmen and their successors, of the market and feyre of the aforesaid Wymborne Mynster from the feast of S<sup>t</sup>. Michael y<sup>e</sup> archangyll 1537, &c. by a pere of of Indentures, &c. sealed in the chapter House with the chapter seal, xxxiiij s. iv d.

110. — for mendying of the sensars, iv d.

1538.

113. Receyved by the best cros and pall this year.

—, that was given on S<sup>t</sup>. Stevyns day iii rings and a spone; that was given on East. Monday, vi ryngs, a pere of beads of corall gardeyd with sylver and gylt, a corporas cloth and a kercher; and on Wyt Monday, v rings, a pere of aramber beads, a playne table Cloth and ii napkyns.

114. (Many quests this year): a cow, part of a bullock and four sheep: many sheep price; an ox price; kyrtell price; a chest and a pan, a heyghfer (heifer).

Received of Barnesly box, iij s. iv d.

— of the good Rood box, vj s. viij d.

— of S<sup>t</sup>. James's box, iij s. iv d.

115. for a new spade, vj d.; for a purse to carry the holy oyle box, and poynts for the canopy, j s.

116. A new key for the chest in Calys, iv d.

For hopyng (hooping) of the holy water buckett.

For mendying of the ijnd bell when it was crasyd (cracked).

For a new Legend of the Story of S<sup>t</sup>. Cuthborow, vj s. viij d.

To a Stacyner for mendying of vj great books and for parchment, xxiv s. vj d.

117. Paid for a new boke of clene paper and a forrell (back) to write in ther names that be crystened, weddyd and bereed. Receipts: Ther was sold an apron, a daggar, and 2 peer of beads.

— a peer of corall beads garded with sylver and gylt.

— a peer of beads of gheat (jet).

Rec<sup>d</sup>. by profits of rynging of the bell for burial and obits, iij s. i d.

— for the Bell acre this year, iij s. iv d.

— by the sale of an acre of arrable land lying in Lygh in Newman field, whych it hath pleased our sovereign Lord the Kyng it shold be enclosyd into the little Park of Canford, xiiij s. iv d.

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31 Hen. VIII. 1539.

117. payd to John Clyfford organ pleyar for one years wages, *iv li.*

120. An Indenture by commandment of master Dean and dyvers of thys parish betwixt Master Symon Beneson and the parishioners of this parish concerning the having of the vauntage of the rynging of the bells to the parishioners use and profytt.

1540.

122. Richard Sherard Smyth one of y<sup>e</sup> Church Men: (probably Smyth refers to his trade).

Quit rent paid to Mr. George Anketill for a tenement in Black Lane.

Yearly obit for John Bracy.

123. Received for the best cros and paull and rynging of the bells at knylls and obits.

— For a yard of russett cotton, a hatchett and two quyshyns (cushions) sold for *x d.*

124. Paid for a new manvell (manual) boke for y<sup>e</sup> Church.

125. cheff rent for a tenement at Seynt Ellyn's cros.

— For the redying of the Bede roll *iii* times this year, *xij d.*

1541.

126. 2 gymow rings sold; black beads, awmber beads gauded with corall and sylver, etc.

127. John Clifford organ player for a years wages *iiij li. vjs. viij d.* and *vj s. viij d.* for a reward.

The Bedman for blowing y<sup>e</sup> great organs and sweeping the church, *iv s. viij d.*

Alan Chandler for keping of y<sup>e</sup> chyme, *iiij s. iv d.*

The ii parish clerks for kepyng of the clock, *iv d.*

For a lood of lyme leyd in to Seynt Peters chyrch, *v s.*

128. Paid for ii pots of cley for wyndfylling of the Chyrch, *xij d.*

— For mending the iron hoop of the font.

1542. 34 Hen. VIII.

129. "King Henry VIII. by the grace of God King of England and Ireland defender of the Faith and on earth under God supreme head of all the whole church of England and Ireland."

131. For John Bracys Dyrge, *ij s. iv d.*

"The fourth bell."

A new lyne for the pyx at the high awter, and for a silken lace for the small pyx, *j d.*, and for soop to wash the corporas, *j d.*, and for ryngs and points to the sepulture, *iv d. ob.*

132. carriage of lead from the Yeld hall to Calys, *xiiij d.*

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132. For stopping of half a window in the rood loft with brick, *v d.*  
 For a desk and a chain for the Bybyll and for mendyng a trestell, *xiv d.*  
 For a lantron to goo in visitation, *viiij d.*  
 For washing of *xxii* albys and ther chesybils, *ii* syrplesys, *xvi* awter cloths; and for mending of *xii* albs and making of *iiij* chysybyls, and setting on of the parell of thos albs and chysybils, *iv s.*
1543. 35 Hen. VIII.
133. Received for Moder Compton's grave and for the rynginge of y<sup>e</sup> greate Bell the space of his monethe's mynde, *xs.*  
 — of Thomas Goby for occupyng of Saynte Peters, *vs. iv d.*
136. — of the Landwife.  
 — the Town wife.
- 1544.
137. Obit of J. Heryng and other benefactors.  
 Paid to John Ryckman for keping of the Boke this year (*i. e.* for writing out this account), *iijs. iv d.*
138. Paid to the Tythingman for the subsidie for the Church Box, *xvj s.*  
 For whyte lether and for mendyng of y<sup>e</sup> bellows of y<sup>e</sup> greate organs, *v d.*, for bokrom and blak threde, *vij d.*
139. S<sup>t</sup>. Peters Ch: in the market place converted into a new Church House. "Bords and trystylls" are removed into it from S<sup>t</sup>. Mary house.
144. P<sup>d</sup>. for brynging in y<sup>e</sup> ladders, *ij d.*  
 — for y<sup>e</sup> takyn downe y<sup>e</sup> rode, *ijs*  
 — for taken down y<sup>e</sup> Alebaster, *xij d.*  
 — for castyn downe ledde, *iv d.*  
 — to Alyn for sevyn nyghts watche, *xiv d.*
145. Gold in the church box the first year of Edw. VI. when the commissioners came.  
 Imprimis *viiij* old amyeletts (amulets).  
 It. too old ryals, too old nobles, one doble duckett (ducat), one single duckett, one frenche crowne, *iiij* old englishe crownes.  
 Item. There remayneth in the same box in sylver fiftie and one pounds. It<sup>m</sup>. there remayneth in the hands of John Rykeman Jun<sup>r</sup>. fourtene pounds.
145. Church plate in the hands of John Lovell gent. 1 oyle box of silver, 1 challyce of copper and gylt, 2 cruetts of sylver, 2 paxes, 1 roode copper and gilt lacking one arme, 3 rings

## PAGE

- of silver, 2 vices of the silver candlesticks, 2 rings of the same vyces, 24 cuysains ("cushions")
147. Paid to Master Phyllypes to desyre hym for to hellpe us make y<sup>e</sup> inveytory for y<sup>e</sup> Churche goods, xx s.  
 Fore y<sup>e</sup> comysseors dener at dvyes (*i. e.* Dewey's), xv s.  
 For alle ther deners y<sup>t</sup> dyde hellpe them to make y<sup>e</sup> invytory, ij s. xjd.  
 For v quarts of wyne at M<sup>r</sup>. Lovells for the comysserners, ij s.  
 Paid to a man that did come to see the speare, xjd.  
 — for wyne at y<sup>e</sup> George, viij d.  
 — for a parafrasse and a chayne to make hem faste, xj s.  
 — to Allyng for takeyng downe y<sup>e</sup> rode and iij crosses, vij s.
150. — for the brekeyng (bricking) up the western dore, iv d.  
 — for latheyng of the Church, iv s.
151. Plumbers' work on the Church roof amounting to £6 2 2; and mason's work on the spire amounting to £19 17 6, and £6 to the mason at his going away.  
 To John Forrydes for y<sup>e</sup> charter ffetyng at London (fetching the charter from London?) v li. vj s. viij d.  
 To Horde for the makyng of to (two) Soplycacyons to my lord of Bedforde, x s.  
 To Thomas Bruar for takyng downe the awters, iv s.  
 To Allyn Chandler for beryng the timber into Callys, x d.  
 Paid for the reddyng of the robell of y<sup>e</sup> awters (removing the rubbish left by the altars), xiv s. viij d.
152. To John Barne for Willcher y<sup>e</sup> scoulle m<sup>r</sup>. (schoolmaster) at London, x s.  
 Item paid for Chrystofor Machame and John Foster's coste and charges at London for the Schute of y<sup>e</sup> skowlle (suit of the school) to the counsell, vij li. xj s. ix d.  
 To Master Phyllypes for his counsell at tymes, xlj s. vjd.  
 The Skowlle-mast<sup>r</sup>. Willcher for hys coste and charges at London, v li. ijd.
- 1550.
154. Paid to Thomas Frampton for vij hogeshedds of tembre at vj s. viij d. the tunne, xj s. viij d.  
 — to y<sup>e</sup> perytorys (apparitors) for y<sup>e</sup> acte that is red in y<sup>e</sup> Churche, viij d.  
 — for threde y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> pent<sup>rs</sup> occupied, iii d.  
 — for vij elles and iij q<sup>rs</sup> of narrow clothe for y<sup>e</sup> pent<sup>rs</sup> v s. iij d. ob.  
 — for naylles for y<sup>e</sup> sckafforde for y<sup>e</sup> pent<sup>rs</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> rodelofte, iij d.



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155. Paid to Bassone for setting uppe y<sup>e</sup> ordynaunce over y<sup>e</sup> king's armes, viij*d*.
156. A.D. 1552.—Receipts only. Account apparently unfinished. The next two pages are blank: then comes a page of calculations: then a memorandum:—
160. “Me<sup>m</sup> that hyt is agreyd by the avyce of all the hole parishe that from hensforthe all tho that shall be the churchwardens of this paryshe shall yerly make ther accomptys the Thursday nexte after the ffest of Sent Luke the Evangelist.”  
Received the rent of the Lamp light by the year, iij*s*. iv*d*.
- A.D. 1564—5.
162. Received for a tenement sometime pertayning to the chapel of S<sup>t</sup>. James in Kyngston, v*s*. viij*d*.  
— rent for the Bell-acre.  
(Brewing leads are still let out).  
Received for smocke money, x*s*. v*j* *d*. (Smoke-money: a small tax on every householder at Easter).  
— for the Church-ale in Lent, v*j* *li*. xiiij*s*. iv*d*.  
— for the whole yere's rents of the standynges in the markette, and of the wekely money that is payde, v*j* *li*.
163. — for the old Byble.
164. Extensive works in timber about the Church house: ij loads of brykes and tyles, iv*s*.: for fillyng of the sawpytte, iv*d*.
- 166.—A.D. 1565.—S<sup>t</sup>. Mary-house is now let to a tenant, and S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's has become the Church-house.
167. Received of M<sup>r</sup>. Hannam for a seate-place, xij*d*.: of Robert Andrews, iv*d*. (First mention of letting of seats).
168. Reparacyons of the Spyer, amounting to £15 10 9: xxvij barres of iron waying lxxv ponnds, viij*s*. v*j* *d*.: vij boltes of iron, xij*d*.: lxij barres weying ccxxxij pounds, xlvij*s*. iv*d*.: iv bushells of coals, x*d*.
170. Paid for “singing-bread,” *i. e.* bread for the Holy Communion, x*j* *d*.  
— for ij bokes of prayers for envadinge (or converting?) of the Turk.
172. Received for a bushell of wheate that Thomas Dewye did give, xvij*d*.
173. Paid for blowing of the Byllowes (of the organ), xiv .  
— for mendynge of the organes, v*s*. viij*d*.  
— for the x Commandments in Collers (colours), xx*d*.  
— to the Ordynarye at his sitting, x*j* *d*.

GE

3. Paid for ij Communion bookes.
4. "Church-wardens" has now come into use instead of "Churchmen."
5. A.D. 1573.

Statement of the Church-wardens' sources of income and liabilities.

Receipts:—

1. From payments for market-stalls, both from regular and casual holders.
2. A yearly rent for the use of the weights kept at the Guildhall, "for waying of wool and yarne," 8s.
3. Tolls of "Cuthburte fayre."
4. Tolls of two fairs at Pymphill, at S<sup>t</sup>. Thomas à Becket and S<sup>t</sup>. Luke's days.
5. A payment due at Easter from every householder, called smoke half-pence.
6. For the bell at funerals.
7. For burial in the church: persons under 14 years old, 3s. 4d.: all others, 6s. 8d.
8. Gifts to the church, and bequests.
9. Payments for seats in the church, (which in this year are at the rates of fourpence and twopence each.)
10. Rents of church property, and fines on the renewal of leases.

Liabilities:—

1. All ornaments and furniture for the service of the church.
2. All keys and wards of the church.
3. All repairs about the church, "(except the Queere and Chauncell,) and all things necessary to be doune."
4. A yearly payment for the markets, to the King or his representative, 33s. 4d.
5. Another to the sheriff for the fairs at Pymphill, 6s. 8d.
6. The "portreeve's" rent, 4s. 8d.
10. A lease granted to John Forrest for 21 years: but the records have been so loosely kept that it is doubted whether there are not 4 or 5 years of the former tenant's term unexpired. (The former letting was probably in the interval 1550—60.)
12. Received of Allen Barbar for his rome in the Church-house, *vid.*  
— of John Merywether for a play in the Church-house, *ivd.*
33. Paid to Stephen Smythe for the hyer of his shoppe for the cheime-maker, *iis.*  
— for the mendynge of the clocke, *xxs.*

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A.D. 1581.

3. P<sup>d</sup> for the makynge of the newe pulpytt, the seates and other necessaryes about the same, 8*l.* 12*s.*

— the Plumer for the whole yere's wages, 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

— the Bell founderer his wages, 6*s.* 8*d.*

— for carriadge of the weights to Pymphill (torn away):

— to the Bell founders their earnest, 6*d.*

— W<sup>m</sup> Wellstede the market rente, 1*l.*

— Chief-rent for an acre of medde, 2*d.*

do. for John Forest's howse, 1*s.*

— A gudgeon for the iiiij<sup>th</sup> bell, 1*s.* 4*d.*

— For cariadge of - - bells to Gatemyser to be cast, 24*s.*

4. — To them which guided the carte, 1*s.* 8*d.*

— For mending of the greate longe breache, 12*d.*

— For casting of the Bells, 7*l.*

— To more paid the Bell founders, 1*l.*

— Geven the church-wyves for their paynes, 5*s.*

— for the accompting dynner, 10*s.*

5. Receipts. 1583.

From the paryshe, the day of their charge at Barwyk's tomb, 8*l.*

Remaining in the boxe, 1*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the parishioners their gyfts and benivolens towards the

Reparacions of the Churche, 7*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

— at Cutbert's Fayre this yeare, 1*l.*

— at the two Fayres at Pymphill, 12*s.* 9*d.*

— market standyngs by the weeke, 2*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

— weights at the Guilde-hall, 8*s.*

— Chief rente of Newborow's landes, 6*d.*

do. in the Borrowe, 6*d.*

— of Philip Foster for S<sup>t</sup>. James's Howse, 6*s.* 8*d.*

— Yearly rente of tenements, 6*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

— Market rents, 2*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

— For seates in Churche, 14*d.*

— Gifts and other casualties, 1*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

— Graves, 1*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

7. Paid for making clene of the Market Place, 2*s.*

— 2 keys and 2 verrells, 4*d.*

18

Paid for a lock for the Font.

- Ringers when the Bishop of Sar' did cum, 6*d*.
- For grease for the Bells then, 3*d*.
- For chief rent to Canford, 1*d*.
- For amercement in the court of Canford, 6*d*.
- For cariadge of weights and beams to Pymphill, 4*d*.
- For the 2 fayres at Pymphill, to the Sheriff, 6*s*. 8*d*.
- For 8 ells part of cloth for Surples, 13*s*. 9*d*.
- For making of that Surples, 3*s*.
- washing of the Surplusses this year, 5*s*.

Howte the Spire. For malte to make liquor to Temper the Lime, 4*s*. 6*d*.

- For horsemete, and for the men wh. did fett stones, 9*s*.
  - For egges for the lime, 3*s*. 4*d*.
  - 1. — For paper for the Queer (*i. e.* quire) book, 4*d*.  
(note—Churchwardens chosen by the parish.)
  - 2. Rent, rec<sup>d</sup> for a garden by S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's yarde, 4*d*.  
— for a turf house, 4*s*.  
— for a garden late the tanner's standing, 4*s*.
  - 3. Rec<sup>d</sup> for an old surples sold to Geo. Clark, 2*s*. 3*d*.  
— of Thos. Phillips for a plott to set his chimney, 6*d*.  
— of Margaret Bell for the room where she sitteth, 4*d*.
- Paid for mending of the orgaynes, to the joyner, 1*s*. 4*d*.  
— for Articles to the Bishop's Parrytery, 12*d*.

183—4.

- For 3 Communion Table Towells, 17*s*. 6*d*.
- 2. — For a new salter (psalter), 4*d*.  
— For a square board for those that receive pennaunce, 13*s*. 5*d*.
- 3. Rec<sup>d</sup> in prophetts of Cuthbert's Fayre, 13*s*.  
Paid for whipping of dogges (out of church), 4*d*.  
— for breiding and dauben of the Guild Hall, 2*s*.
- 6. — for a verken (firkin) of beare for Ringers, 1*s*. 9*d*.
- 7. Rec<sup>d</sup> for profits of the Church Ale, 9*l*. 10*s*. 6*d*.  
— for rent of Newborow's land over against Dedhouse, 6*d*.  
— Knyll Pence (payments for Knells), 4*s*. 4*d*.  
— Rent for an acre of Meade in Netherwood, 13*s*. 4*d*.  
— do. for a plott of ground near the church-stile where Thos. Phillips hath builded, 4*d*.  
— for Rob. Pitman's grave, with a stone layed upon him, 16*s*. 8*d*.

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18. Paid for keeping the clock and cheymes, 13*s.* 4*d.*

— for making 5 ladders, 7*s.* 8*d.*

19. New lead for the Church roofe (at £8 15 a tun) and laying of the old sheetes; a water-table of lead in the spire, &c., 13*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Paid for the prysoners in the Gayle for  $3\frac{1}{4}$  years, 1*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

— W<sup>m</sup> Welsted for the Rents of the Market, 1*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

— For setting 3 locks upon a coffer, 2*d.*

— M<sup>r</sup>. Hannam for Church Rent, 12*d.*

— the Reeve of Canford for Syne-pence, 2*d.*

1586.

— for lights at Service in the morning the xvii<sup>th</sup> Novemb., 12*d.*

— for a Jemewe (hinge) for the Pew dore.\*

— for bread and wine for the whole yere, 6*s.* 4*d.*

Geven to the poore at the Church reckoning in breade and mooney, 10*s.*

21. Rec<sup>d</sup> for Richard Delacourt's grave in the Porch, 3*s.* 4*d.*

22. (note. Only 6 seats let: one to Johan wife of John King, a room in a seat that was her mother's).

23. Paid W<sup>m</sup> Welsted for the Queen's Rent, 20*s.*

1587.

— for locks and keys for the poor man's boxe, 16*d.*

— washing the clothes against Ester, 15*d.*

do. Midsummer quarter.

do. Michaelmas quarter.

25. — work about the Spire Bell, 3*d.*

1588.

27. Rec<sup>d</sup> for M<sup>r</sup>. Chesman's grave one of the Ministers of this church, 6*s.* 8*d.*

29. Paid for mending M<sup>r</sup>. Palmer's surples, 2*d.*

— for mending M<sup>r</sup>. Galping's surples.

— for a new Bible, 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

— for mending the church stile and the Barres.

30. — for making a new hatch in the Church lytton.

31. Received of players that played in the Church howse, 2*s.*

— of M<sup>r</sup>. Newbery for chief rent, 1*s.*

32. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Thomas Buddon for himself and his wiffe, in his father's and mother's seate, 8*d.*

\* First mention of Pew.

GE

. Memorandum.—W<sup>m</sup> Etheridge came to Barwick's Tomb and  
 Dec. 13, } took of the parish, the house he dwells in with garden,  
 32 Eliz. } &c. for 21 years at 13s. 4d. yearly rent, and a fine of  
 £1 6 8.

. Rec<sup>d</sup> for a sylver pyne (pin) in the Boxe, 8d.  
 — for a stone in the Ch. yard, 6s. 8d.  
 — of Richard Russell, for a fyne for his seat, 1s. 4d.  
 — Rent of John Lambe, for his close in Eastbroucke,  
 1s. 4d.

. Paid for 8 bushells of meles lyme, 5s. 4d.  
 — for rent of the acre in Netherwood, 7d.  
 — for Tymber for work about the Oryall, 16s.  
 . — for mending of the Church Kettell, 1s. 4d.  
 — for candles at the Crownation day, 8d.

90.

. Rec<sup>d</sup> in gathering of the parish and in the profits of the Ale,  
 9l. 4s. 5d.  
 — from Thos. Fuller, for a chymney which standeth upon  
 part of the Churchyard, 4d.

. — from John Gillingham for a place to build a seat, 4d.

. Paid for mending the Church lytten walls, 15d.

— — of the Orynall, 6d.  
 — a proctor for Burpote, 12d.  
 — to the proctor of S<sup>t</sup> Margaret's, 16d.  
 — rent to Mr. Serjeante Hannam, 1l. 17s. 5d.

. Memorandum—"Also is lykewyse agreed upon that from  
 henceforth the churchwardens then for the tyme being  
 shall not lett, sett, or sell any part or parcell of the Church  
 landes or tenements, but with the consent of the old  
 Churchwardens. And that at the accompte day at Bar-  
 wick's Tombe."

"Also it is agreed on and so ordered that from hence-  
 forth noe grave shall be made in the Churche before the  
 Churchwardens or one of them be satisfied of the duty  
 payable for the same."

. Paid for essoyning two courts at Canford, 2d.  
 — at the Dean's Law daye, 1d.  
 — a peck of lime for the schoole-house, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.  
 — to the Proctor of the Queen's Bench (this occurs often),  
 3s. 4d.

Memorandum—Thos. Pope, glover, to have the use of the

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45. weights and the Guildhall upon the markett days with the 2 fayres at Pymphill, during the lease wh. the parish hath yet to com, paying to y<sup>e</sup> Ch. wardens, 33s. 4d. rent.
47. Rec<sup>d</sup> a fine of John Gylbart for the little close in Pool Lane, 4l. 7s. 8d.  
(note—Fines for seats received every year.)
49. About the town hall: paid for a tree, 7s.  
Paid to the cunstabell of the hundred for the gayle money for 3 qrs. behind, 6s. 6d.  
— for 8 ells of hollend for Mr. Paine's surplisse, 24s.  
— for 8½ ells of hollend to make a surpliss for the orgenyst, 21s. 3d.  
— for 31½ ells of Dowlis at 20d. the ell to make 6 surplisses for boyes, 52s. 6d.: and for making them, 12s.  
— to Darland to goo to Dorchester to deliver the bill about the recusents, 12d.  
— for the poor soldiars at Shurborn at 2d. a week since Midsomer, 2s. 4d.  
— for 12 days work done about the stepell, 30s.
- 1594.
53. A spade for the bedman, 16d.  
Paid for removing the clock and oriell into the Speer, 20s.
- 1595.
55. Received for Antonye Etterycke's child's grave, 3s. 4d.
56. Paid for ij keyes for y<sup>e</sup> ffaute (vault, or sepulchre), 8d.  
— iiij bookes of gould abowte y<sup>e</sup> dyall, 5s. 4d.  
— i booke of sylver, 8d.  
— a quart<sup>r</sup> of a pownd of vermylyon, 10d.  
— ij pownds of whyt led, 12d.
57. — ij pownds of blew, 6d.  
— for a booke of y<sup>e</sup> Queens Iniunccyons, 6d.  
Paid to Richard Sergyaunt by the condysent of y<sup>e</sup> paryshe for y<sup>t</sup> he was hyndered for waunt of y<sup>e</sup> stayers to goe to y<sup>e</sup> weyghts, 3s. 4d.  
— for mendyng of y<sup>e</sup> stayers at y<sup>e</sup> Church-howse.
61. — for wyt lyming of the Church and for the lym to do it, 7l.  
— for cleveing and rooting of a tre that was bloen down in the Church-yarde, 6s.  
— for making of the penetent bord, 5s.  
— for the dener at the Church-howes when we mad ower account, 20s.

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64. Paid for planckyinge of the Lowght (loft) under the clocke,  
10s. 9d.

65. — for 2 enquireys at the agmentation court abowte the  
(denery?) whether the church land be holden of the  
Denerey or not, 2s. 7d.

1598.

66. (Accounts rendered at "Barwycke's towme.") "Fyens for  
seats." Item of Henry Dacre for a seat w<sup>ch</sup> was mystres  
Hawes, for that term of tyme that he dwellythe in her  
howse, 4d.

68. Paid to the howse of correccyon, 8s. 8d.

— for castynge the bell and for mettell and for other chargis,  
8l. 5s. 5d.

— for whyt lether for the great Bell, 5s.

— to y<sup>e</sup> plum<sup>r</sup> for hanging of y<sup>e</sup> great Bell, 4s.

— for mendynge of y<sup>e</sup> sylver cup, 3s.

70. — for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a year for the Howse, Kings benche, Marshalsey,  
and hurt soldiers, 26s.

71. (Items of work about the great bell: gudgens, cannons, etc.)

1599.

P<sup>d</sup> for a lynyen cloth to putt about the Communion Cupp, 12d.

— for 3 lbs. of candels used in the Church when they rung  
for the Quene, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

— Mr. Hannam, chief rent for his land, that was Mr. Wel-  
sted's, 12d.

72. — Sheriff's men for rent of 2 fairs at Pymphill, 6s. 8d.

— for fyve strapps and 2 keyes for the Fier-bell, 3s.

Mem.—John Chapman to have the howse he now dwelleth  
in, so long as he contynueth Clarke in the Churche, at  
13s. 4d. by the year, to repair at his own cost: and to  
clean the gutters of the church so long as he remaynes  
Clarke.

74. (A whole page "Fynes for seats," many paying for seats that  
were their fathers').

75. Paid for new casting the 3rd Bell and other charges, 7l. 7s.

— Elliss Trymore  $\frac{3}{4}$  wages for keeping y<sup>e</sup> Bells, 7s. 6d.

— Toogood for keeping the Clock, 16s.

— for new banding of a surplice, 2d.

— for mending the minister's seat, 2s.

76. — to Mr. Hannam, chief rent for Taylor's house, 1s.



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76. Paid to the Reeve of Canford, for the rent of the acre of land in Netherwood, 1*d.* To Joseph Collitt for wyne, 4*s.*

79. — for a booke of the first Tombe of Homeles (tome of homilies), 2*s.* 6*d.*

— for minding the billowes of organs, 8*d.*

81. Received of Sideacke Pitt for ground to build (a seat) on, by the vestry dore, 18*d.* (seats are now 6*d.* each).

1601.

84. Paid for paynting the Orlage, 20*s.*

— for a lock to set upon the door where we do lay our corn, 12*d.*

— for fackots for to dress the dinner, 2*s.* 2*d.*

1602.

— for nayles and for worke about the spere to stopp y<sup>e</sup> colvers, 16*d.*

— to Benet the hellier about the spere, 8*d.*

85. Layd out when I went to Wodbery hill to bye the comunion bokes, 12*d.*

86. An order for letting of seats.

First, yf anye man purches anye ground to buylde anye seat, or agree for anye seat, he shall enjoye the same during his abode within the parish (except he become a recusant). When he shall dye or depart the parish, the Churchwardens shall graunt the same for the benefit of the Church. No seat shall be graunted in reversion.

1603.

87. Received for shrouds of Trees in the Ch.-yard, 5*s.*

— for broken peeces of stones and other rubble unfytt for anye purpose aboute the Churche, and such as woulde have been stolne away, being purchased by divers of parishe, 5*s.*

— of John Shepton for his ffyne of Pymphill ffayer with an agrem<sup>t</sup> that the Artyfycers of the Towne shall not paye above one peney for a standinge, 6*s.* 8*d.*

90. Paid to Mason for pavinge in the Churche, for about 50 bushelles of lyme, etc., 6*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

91. (40 more bushels of lime.)

Paid for 7 loads of sand, aboute the pavinge of the Churche, 4*s.* 8*d.*

— for carringe the greate Tombe stone from Hayward's dore, to his grave, 12*d.*

## AGE

1. Paid for amendinge of the leads of the Churche, 4*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*  
 Item p<sup>d</sup> to John Habgood the Tanner for his seate bycause  
 he was untractable about the new makyng thereof, 3*s.* 4*d.*  
 — for amending the hearse, 12*d.*
2. — for fotestoles in the quier about the Communion Table.  
 Laid out at Dorchester on being cited aboute the repayringe of  
 our Church, 3*s.* 4*d.*  
 Paid for amendinge the pulpitt, 5*s.*  
 — for the dinner of the parish at the time of our accompt, 20*s.*
3. An inventory of such goods as we have gathered into the pos-  
 session of the Church.

Imprimis—One great brasse Pott waying 53lb., vallued at . . .

One other lesser brass Pott waying 45lb.

One other waying 38lb.

Two great yron broches (*i. e.* spits).

One great payer of Iron Racks.

One gridiron.

One bell.

An Order.—It is ordered from henceforthe that the Clarke shall  
 cause all the money wh. shal be given for the Ringinge  
 of the greate Bell for anye Knyll to be delyvered to the  
 mynister wh. shall serve for that weeke, to th'ende he  
 shall make payment thereof at th' ende of his weeke to  
 the Ch.-wardens. Lykewise that the grave money be  
 paid or secured to the Ch.-wardens before any grave be  
 made in the Church: and that the Clarks doe their in-  
 devor therein accordingly uppon payne of loosinge his place  
 of Clarkshipp.

Item—That the Clarks shall give their attendance at the  
 Churche and have care that the boyes and others doe not  
 defyle or abuse the Churche. And also that the Clarks doe  
 their office in Ringing the belles and otherwise in dew (order?)  
 as have bene used uppon like forfeiture of their places.

604.

5. Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Benevolence of the Parish in money and corn de-  
 ducting corne for 3 collecting dyners, 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*  
 — for two garnished gyrdels that were sold, 18*s.* 6*d.*  
 — for the ould Bybell, 4*s.*  
 — for too olde Brasys weying 13lb., 4*s.* 4*d.*  
 — of the Two clarkes for knill pence, 2*s.* 10*d.*
7. P<sup>d</sup> for tymber for setting up of the oryall.

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1604.

97. P<sup>d</sup> for ryngers the first day of our good king James.  
 — for washing the surplusses against Candlemas, 5*d*.  
 98. — for making the syfyers (cyphers?) about the Oryall, 12*d*.  
 — for a newe Communion cupp, 3*l*. 7*s*. 9*d*.  
 102. — for 2*lb*. of candels for the ministers to sey . . .  
 105. Rec<sup>d</sup> in the spiritual court in stock, 7*l*. 19*s*.  
 (Generally “at Barwick’s Tomb.”)

1606.

107. North aisle new paved.  
 110. Fee for tolling the Great Bell, 2*s*. 6*d*.  
 Rec<sup>d</sup> for ground to build a seat, 6*d*.  
 — from Magdalen Poole for the inward roome uppon the Bench, 7*d*.  
 — from W<sup>m</sup> Bell, for a roome going to the pulpitt, 6*d*.  
 — of Widow Habgood for her husband’s roome, 2*s*. 6*d*.  
 111. (gifts) Rec<sup>d</sup> of Rich. Habgood 2 peces of Golde of 10 shillings a pece, 20*s*.

1608.

112. New surples for Mr. Toogood, 14*s*. 8*d*.  
 Making thereof, 2*s*. 4*d*.  
 Do. for W<sup>m</sup> Neale, 13*s*. 7*d*.  
 P<sup>d</sup> to a Scoteman who had lost his goods by the sea, 2*s*.  
 — for gettin in of a bell in the Spiritual court, 15*d*.  
 — for minding Blase’s pike-aske (pickaxe).

1609.

118. — for making the king’s armes in the Church, 4*l*.  
 — for ringers the 4th Nov., 2*d*.  
 119. — for taking down the orgaynes, 16*s*. 6*d*.  
 — for boards to make the clock howse, 12*s*. 4*d*.  
 — to Chapman to warne the parishes to meet together about the collection for the church, 12*d*.  
 — for grease to grease the Bear (bier).  
 — Rope for the Fier Bell.  
 — 8 ells of *garnsle* (?) cloth at 18*d*. an ell to make Chapman a surples, 12*s*.

122. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Parson White an whole year’s rent of 2 acres of mead called Rush-Mead, 2*l*.

123. A bell hung in the spire.

1610.

- P<sup>d</sup> to Goodman King for caring of the bell to Sarum to be new cast and home again, 20*s*.

12

. P<sup>d</sup> to Goodman King and his sonne, Henry Allen and myself Robert Ryves our suppers the first night, 3*s.* 6*d.*

The next day our dinners, 3*s.*

Our suppers, 3*s.*

G. King and his sonne's breakfast, 10*d.*

Our two dinners, 16*d.*

. Our supper, 18*d.*

G. King, his horses and haye, &c., 8*s.*

The Bell founder, Mr. Wallis.

Setting the organs in their place.

Fitting of the loft in the spire.

Tacking down of the 4th Bell, and hanging of him up again.

. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Sir John Hanam knight for a roome for his bayliffe to sit in with Father Abraham, 6*d.*

2.

. P<sup>d</sup> for making y<sup>e</sup> windows about the new Tower, 12*d.*

. — for 2 communion books for the Servitors, 7*s.*

. (foot) The Parish Clark to have yearly for keeping clean of the leads of the Church, 4*s.*

. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. Payne towards the chyme, collected of the Parish, 3*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

. — of Mr. Hall for his seat which he bought of other men, 2*s.*

. P<sup>d</sup> for a horse for Mr. Jo. and another for Henry Allen to Dorchester for the Bible, and their dinners, 4*s.*

— for the Church Bible, 2*l.* 16*s.*

3.

— the charge for the ministers and ch.-wardens at the Bishop's visitation, 5*s.*\*

— for silk and lace for the pulpit cushion, 3*s.*

— for making the 10 commandments, 10*s.*

. Memorandum—That xviii<sup>d</sup> taken by the Churchwardens of Mrs. Fry to set a seate neere the vestry doore was delyvered back againe, because yt appeared playnely that the ground was James Coshe's, Henry Tock's and M<sup>rs</sup> Gaye's: and they were to build a seate upon yt betweene this and Whitsuntide next.

. P<sup>d</sup> for making of the cover of the Font.

. — for cutting downe of the Great Elme in the Ch.-yard for

\* The first mention of Bishop's visitation.

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1613.

the which elme Mr. Humphrey gave to (?) Thomas Bradge, and said if the parish did not like of it the corporation w<sup>d</sup> paye 10s. for him.

P<sup>d</sup> for paper for a register-book.

149. (foot) “Mrs. Gundry hath given a silke clothe to the Church to be a covering for the corps of the poore when they are brought to be buried.”

150. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Christopher Shepton for a room under Bp. Jewell’s book.

151. P<sup>d</sup> for Candles and drink for the ringers, Nov. 5, 1s. 4d.

153. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Ciprian White for the Bell acre in Netherwood, 20s.  
— of Father Harford for to sitt on a bench under M<sup>rs</sup> Hanham’s feat, 12d.

— Cicelie Clark for a room on the North Bench.

155. P<sup>d</sup> to Wallis for his coming to take the little bell to casting, 4s.

1616.

— for ringers for beere to drink out S<sup>t</sup> James’s day, 1s. 8d.

— to ringers at the Kinge’s Majestie’s coming to our town, 1l. 4s.

— for 3 service books for the King’s 3 hollidays.

156. — The north stile.

157. — south bench in Church.

159. — to Foot for making a hole in great Bell’s head, 20s.

— for a Book of the Canons, 1s. 3d.

— Ringers on 5th August.

— 3 keys for the poor man’s Box.

160. — to John Brenton for his plowe to bring sand and stones to the making of the pitched cawsway, 6s.

163. — for trussing 16 Thorowes on the South Aisle.

— a dark lantern for the Ministers, 2s. 6d.

164. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mrs. Mary Gundry deceased, was given by her last will and Test. to the parish Ch. of Wimborne M. one howse in Fee Simple, now stated out to one W<sup>m</sup>. Briant, but in the tenure of one Thos. Galpen, and the rent is 20s.

165. (Another entry about the same house, “lying neere the Church.”)

168. (Amongst memoranda.) “And further that the corporation have given to the Churche’s use and to the Church for ever, the Church-yard, and to this end the said Wardens have

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given 10s. to the widow Delacourt for a lease that shee hath of the same for certen yeares by their consent."

169. (in margin) "Receipts." A list thus headed—

1620. These summes were graunted      Imprimis Rec<sup>d</sup> of Richard  
to the Church A.D. 1608      Fifett for a rate\* of  
for the repaying thereof      Henry Fifett then due  
and paid now.      to the church . . . &c.

171. To Thos. Galpen for mending the pennance Bord, 2s. 4d.

173. P<sup>d</sup> to Weldey his wages.

— for his lodgings when he was sick, 1s. 10d.

— to Goodey Weekes for sack and sugar for Weldey, 4d.

177. Wine for Communion on All Saints' day.

Do. on Sunday after All Saints' day.

Seven quarts of wine, viz. 2 on Sunday before Xtmas day,  
5 on Xtmas day, 7s.

185. P<sup>d</sup> to one Henry Dalton of London that was taken prisoner  
by the Turks, 12d.

— to a poor Irish gentleman towards his travile, 6d.

— to a company of poor Irish gentlemen and their children,  
1s. 6d.

186. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  yards of Novato for the pulpit-cushion, silk and silke lace,  
12s. 2d.

A pewter dish for the Communion.

190. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Communicants after Whitsunday toward the charge  
of the Communion.†

191. Duke, for his quarteridge, to ring to Sermon, 1s.

194. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Peter Smith of Hampreston, for communicating at  
this Church, 12d.

195. (61 entries of peals of Great Bell at funerals).

196. (A whole page of seats sold).

197. Gayle-money for the whole year, being dubble, 3l. 9s. 4d.

P<sup>d</sup> for mending and tuning of the Great Organ.

— 19 quarts and 1 pint of sack for the Communion.

198. — a velvet cushion finished for the pulpete, 3l. 11s. 7d.

— a flagone for the Comm<sup>n</sup> Tables, 9s. 9d.

— to Bartholomew Alforde for making a cofer to set in the  
Towre to put things necessarye in for the Church howse,  
6s. 2d.

201. Ringing for the day the King comes from Spain.

\* First use of the word rate.

† This seems to have been an annual collection. This is the first entry—it occurs regularly afterwards.

PAGE

1626.

201. Coronation day.

203. Copy of Mrs. Mary Gundry's will, dated 23 Feb. 1617.

(To be buried in quire of Ch. of W. Minster as near her husband John Gundrie as may be).

House and garden adjoining the Ch.-yard to Richard Swayne of Tarrant Gunville, Esq. and his heirs, in trust for y<sup>e</sup> church of W. M., for the maintenance of the service of God there and reparacion of the Church for ever.

To my mother Margaret Barnsfield, an annuity of £6. 13. 4. to be sent to the Mayor of Exeter for the time being, or any other friend whom she shall appoint, to receive the same for her use.

“To Robert Biddlecombe my brother,” John Biddlecombe, and others of the family.

Remainder to Bayliff and Burgesses of the Town of Blandford Forum for the use of the poor.

To the collectors for the poore of Wimborne Minster, for ever, to y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> poor people that are honest and fear God, 40s. a year, out of my lands, &c. charged with the former rents, 20s. thereof to be given yearly to widow Poole to bring up her children for xii years.

204. A codicil to the above will.

205. (Barwick's Tomb—written Barrowe Tomb).

1626.

Rent from the Bailiff of the Borough, 2s.

Fee for stone at the end of grave, 2d.

(Great number of seats sold—fees paid on exchange.)

207. P<sup>d</sup> to five poor Irish people that came to our Towne that sustained greate losse by a fearfull fyre to their utter undoing, as appeared by a certificate under manie Knights' and Squiers' handes: they were bounde for London to the King and were in want, 2s.

— to Captain Bowser's wife, being in distress through manie misfortunes, and bound to London, &c., 1s. 6d.

— five more Irish people (burnt out as before), under certificate which moveth us to compassion; besides we see under the hands of our neighbour Townes and parishes before us hath done the lyke, therefore we praie you to be pleased with itt, 2s. 6d.

209. — to Shepherd, for ringing 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock, Lady-day quarter, 2s. 6d.

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1628.

212. (Passes for relief from Whitehall commence.)

214. The Great Bell endangered the Tower wall. The "cadges" of the Bells altered, so as to set them clear of the wall.

215. (Gifts to Church.) Received of Peter Cornelius, 40s.

1629.

217. The word "disbursement" first used. Hitherto "charges."

218. New desk. Varnishing of him and of the pulpit, and for removing of the old desk, 4l.

221. (Great Bell taken down to be re-cast.)

225. (Seat sold to John Tregonwell and his heirs, whilst owner of Barnsley).

1630.

A furnace built, and the Great Bell melted in Henry Allen's garden near the Church. Anthony Bond the Bell-founder.

231. "The Stoning stile."

"Church ledden hatches."

232. News of the Birth of Prince Charles.

233. "New challes cloth."

234. For a discharge of the Ch.-wardens in the Crown office about the Great Bell, 13s. 4d.

253. (Pymphill becomes Payntheill.)

Quarrells for windows, 1d. apiece.

New desk for the ministers to catechise.

255. P<sup>d</sup> at Archbishop's visitation at Blandford. Ch.-warden and sidesmen dinner.

259. Boards to Tower to keep forth the pigeons.

261. Setting up the Commandments, Creed and divers sentences of Scripture, in colours.

1635.

266. gavile (?) money to Constables of Hundred.



## VOLUME III. 1640—1696.

## DATE

1640. Half a thousand of blew slat, 5*s*.

(Many seats sold: the persons holding them are specified in every case. The prices vary from 1*s*. to 7*s*.) (The treble Bell first mentioned.)

1641. For mending of both the hatches, 6*d*.

To the Warriners for a ffox head, 1*s*.

For a hoode for M<sup>r</sup> Stone, 1*l*. 8*s*. 6*d*.

1642. for mending the windows, for 81 quarrells, at 1*d*., 6*s*. 9*d*.

for mending a chest in the vesterie, 3*d*.

(Entries for mending the doors, etc. and for plumbers work about the Church: a good deal of new lead).

for surplices w<sup>ch</sup> weare taken from the Church, 3*s*. 6*d*.

for carrying the Earth and stones out of the Church, 6*d*.

To the Bailifes for aresting Stronge, 2*s*.

1643. P<sup>d</sup> for sum of the organ pipes, 6*d*.

— for one of the surplysis taken by a soldeir, 6*d*.

— for minding the stay of the fourth bell, 6*d*.

— nine load of timber.

— for minding of the chimes and jack, 2*s*.

— for 566 quarrels of glasse, 2*l*. 18*s*.

— for banding and soldering 6 lights, 2*s*.

For a seate for the minister to sit in at the Deske and for a bench for y<sup>e</sup> Clerk's deske, 12*s*.

More lead, and more windows mended,—“that were throwne downe by y<sup>e</sup> winde.”

For gayle money for y<sup>e</sup> whole yeere to y<sup>e</sup> poore of S<sup>t</sup> Margarites, 1*l*. 14*s*. 8*d*.

For mending y<sup>e</sup> greate windowe ov<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> scholers benches, 7*s*.

1646. To an Irish woman wh. had 6 small children, 1*s*.

paid y<sup>e</sup> under Sh<sup>riffe</sup> more for taking out y<sup>e</sup> arrear in y<sup>e</sup> Crowne office, for y<sup>e</sup> great bell being like to be lost, 1*l*. 1*s*.

1647. 9 cwt. 2 qr. 17 lb. of lead, 6*l*. 5*s*. 7*d*.

for casting and laying 20 cwt. of lead, 4*l*. 16*s*. 10*d*.

For the bason to baptise in, 5*s*. 4*d*.

Scowring 2 flaggens, 2 chalices, platte, and Egle, 1*s*. 3*d*.

Rec<sup>d</sup> of X<sup>pofer</sup> Adams for the herbage of the churchyard, 4*s*.

Casting and laying 44 cwt. of lead, 8*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*.

## DATE

1648. for mending the cage of the fourth bell and for trussing him up, 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Paid the ringers for ringing to prayer for one quarter, 8*s.*

For mending a hole in the leads of the church w<sup>ch</sup> was broken by the fall of a stone from the spire, and for wood, 17*s.* 2*d.*

1649. For bricking up y<sup>e</sup> two windows, and for washing them in y<sup>e</sup> inside, 1*s.* 8*d.*

The Ringers their yeares wages, 1*l.* 12*s.*

1650. Casting and laying 33 cwt. 2 qr. of lead, 5*l.*

Paid Nicholas Pope for new writting y<sup>e</sup> Register, 10*s.*

Paid Mr. Banckes his cheife rent, 2*s.*

For three foxes heads, 3*s.*; for 2 poulcatts heads, 6*d.*

Given to an Irish Gent, 1*s.*

For beere for y<sup>e</sup> ringers y<sup>e</sup> fift of November, 2*s.*

Paid for washing out y<sup>e</sup> Kings armes, 2*s.* 8*d.*

Paid the Glasier for taken downe of y<sup>e</sup> Kings armes in y<sup>e</sup> windows, and minding it again, 2*s.* 4*d.*

— for taking down y<sup>e</sup> princes armes, 1*s.*

1651. Rec<sup>d</sup> for 22 lb. of old bell brasse at 8*d.*, 14*s.* 8*d.*

22 lb.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of tin at 10*d.*, 18*s.* 4*d.* (Organ pipes?)

(115 lb. more sold at different times.)

P<sup>d</sup> to a poore man that had his house burnt, 4*s.*

— for an hundred of bricks for the south window, 1*s.* 6*d.*

1652. For minding y<sup>e</sup> stayeres at y<sup>e</sup> East side of the Ch.-yard, 6*s.*

621 quarrels of new glasse, 2*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

P<sup>d</sup> for helpe to carrye y<sup>e</sup> Bellows, &c., into Vestry, 4*d.*

Work about the East Window in the North Isle, 3*l.* 10*s.*

May 26. 1653. Agreed that the acre of meadow called the Bell-acre in Netherwood be never granted by lease any more, but that the Churchwardens make the best advantage thereof.

In all new leases it is to be stipulated that the rent shall be paid within 15 days after the quarter-day on pain of re-entry.

1653. P<sup>d</sup> Robert Muncke one of the Guardians of the Hospitall of S<sup>t</sup> Margerets for one quarter of a yeere treasure money due at Midsum<sup>r</sup> 1653, 13*s.* 4*d.* (several payments this year).

— Mr. Thomas Fframpton (deputy to John Turberaile (?) Esq. Sheriff) to the use of the Co<sup>m</sup>on wealth for lycence to keepe two ffayers every yeere on Pimphill within the Manor of Kingston Lacie, 6*s.* 8*d.*

1653. For beere for the ringers at Christide, 1*s.* (substituted for Mas).

## DATE

1654. Rec<sup>d</sup> of John White for y<sup>e</sup> exchange of his life for his  
 Unckle Ciprians in the seate with John Frost, 2s. 6d.  
 For an iron stay for the pulpitt head, 2s.  
 (More payments to S<sup>t</sup> Marg<sup>th</sup> Hosp<sup>l</sup>. They seem to have some  
 connexion with the County Treasury, as the Treasurer  
 accepts receipts for them in lieu of money for gaol money).  
 1000 hard bricks for the Church and Tower windows, 15s. 6d.  
 The great bell "hoysed" for repairs.  
 598 new quarrels of glass, 2l. 9s. 10d.
- 28 Feb. 1654. P<sup>d</sup> for an ordinance of Parliam<sup>t</sup> for the better ob-  
 servacon of the Lords day wh. under penalties is to be  
 publiquely read the first sunday in March yerely, 6d.
1655. A new twist for the south doore, waying 10 lb., 5s.  
 Cleaning the 2 silver boules and platt, 6d.  
 For making and setting up of the benches about y<sup>e</sup> Com-  
 munion Table in y<sup>e</sup> quire, 1l.
1656. Paid the Bayleife of the Burrough of Wimborne Minster  
 for one years cheife rent due to Ralph Banks, Esq. 2s.  
 ("The 25<sup>th</sup> of December" used instead of Christmas).  
 For beere for the ringers the thanksgivinge day for the pre-  
 servacōn of his highnes the Lord protector, 2s.  
 For hanging the Jack bells and for a new planke, 5s.
1657. "For the yeare of our Lord Christ according to the compu-  
 tation of the Church of England, 1657."  
 Sold, 19½ lb. of bell-metal, 14s. 6d.  
 883 quarrels of new glasse, 3l. 13s. 7d.  
 16 foot of new glass about the vestry, 9s. 4d.  
 Tymber to amend the roof of the vestry, 2s.  
 Casting and laying 49 cwt. of new and old lead, 11l. 12s. 9d.  
 Obediah Clarke and John Hayward, a qrs wages for ringing  
 the greate bell to sermon, 6s.  
 "Also I give for the setting up of a small bench by my own  
 pew doore for my man to sitt on, 6d."  
 For candles for the sexton, 1s. (Hitherto "bedman.")  
 For bread and wine for the communion for 1 yeare, 1l. 16s. 5d.
1658. Sold to Francis Frost the cooper one roome on the pulpit  
 stayers for himself to sit on, 1s. 6d.  
 Sold to Mr. Gardener 3 roomes in a seat in the organ loft, 1l.  
 (A seat in Staggs's alley, by the little door, mentioned.)  
 For the 4 vanes on the spire tower and for setting up of  
 them, 18s.

## DATE

1668. P<sup>d</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Higden for his extraordinary paynes in rectifieing of things concerning the seates, &c., 1*l.* 1*s.*  
 Lead on the north alley beyond the little door, 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*  
 Lead work about the gutters of the body of the Ch., 8*l.*
1659. Sold—The Elme tree in the Ch. yard, 2*l.*  
 For mending the top of the skreene by the belfery, 1*s.*  
 For making the deske for Bishop Jewells book, 10*s.*  
 For making the bordering about the Princes armes, 8*s.*
1660. Payd for work done about the Kings Armes, (*sic*), 15*s.* 5*d.*  
 For timber and scaffold, 1*l.* To the painter, 1*l.*  
 P<sup>d</sup> the ringers for ringing all in for half a year, 16*s.* (This had been discontinued.)  
 — the masons 8 days work for 4 men for laying the stones in the North Isle, which were sunk by reason of the water that came in when the leads were open, 1*l.* 13*s.*  
 For the matt about the Font, 1*s.* 3*d.*  
 To the ringers for beere at Christmas, 1*s.*  
 For 2 matts for the ministers.
1661. P<sup>d</sup> for 8 lb. of candles to set in the hoop, and a great candle to set in the midst, at 9*d.* a pownd, 5*s.*  
 For making a surplice and lace, 6*s.*
1662. For fower new common prayer bookes with the carriage from London, 1*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*  
 For a new hood for M<sup>r</sup> Anstie, 1*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*
1663. For 18 quarts of wyne for Easter Communion, 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1664. For ringing 4, 8, and 12, 17 days, 3*s.*  
 gave unto 4 Frenchmen, 6*d.*  
 gave unto 2 men that had been sent to Barbadoes, 6*d.*  
 For writing and sending Mr. Lynes will to London, 3*s.*  
 Washing the linnen and scowring the challices 1 yeare, 1*l.* 3*s.*  
 For drawing the rate for the organs, 1*s.* 6*d.*  
 P<sup>d</sup> Robert Pope for goeing to Kingston Hall for the Masons to view the faults about the Tower, 3*d.*  
 — in beere to the Ringers for a peale to trye if the tower shooke, 1*s.*  
 Imp<sup>s</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> Mrs. Gundrye's annualty, 2*l.*, Mr. Frampton's, 2*l.*  
 It<sup>m</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> for disorders of drunkards and swearers as followith :—  
 Of Richard Bucker of Spetsbury for sweareing, 1*s.*  
 Of Tho. Barnes for Typling, 3*s.* 4*d.*  
 &c. &c. (13 names), 3*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

## DATE

1664. It<sup>m</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. Swayne for Richard Jelbert's contempt and not goeing to church, 4s.

(The names of the poor persons to whom these sums were distributed follow).

A Rate made the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 1663 for repaying the Church and buying of a new organ, 222*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*

(William Hanham, for his means in the parish, is rated at 12*l.*, and the occupier of Kingston Hall at 18*l.*)

For Mending a hole in the Dungeon window, 6*d.*

1665. Sold to John Etheridge an old payre of Billows, 2*s.* 6*d.*

P<sup>d</sup> for 16½ elles of holland at 3*s.* 4*d.* for 4 serplices for the boyes, 2*l.* 15*s.*

To the Widow Bartlett for making them and mending 4, 12*s.*

To the Ringers for ringing when our gracious King Charles the Second came through this Towne, 4*s.*

For 10½ yards of Callicoe for lining the Alter-cloth and Pulpitt-cloth, for looplace and silke, 12*s.* 6*d.*

for a polecatt and 9 dossen of sparrows, 1*s.* 1*d.*

For a service book for y<sup>e</sup> victory of y<sup>e</sup> Dutch and the ringers, 3*s.*

For taking down the organ loft lower, 2*l.* 10*s.*

“William Frampton and John Ansty Churchwardens did with the assistance of the parish Anno. Car. II. xvii. erect and set up by Robert Hayward of the Citty of Bath orginmaster, a payre of organs in the Church, by indenture dated September 10<sup>th</sup> 1664.”

To M<sup>r</sup> Tompkins and M<sup>r</sup> Silver ffor their comming over (from Sarum) and there expences to prove the organ where it was sufficient according to our Covenants, 5*l.*

Sum total of the rate, 253*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Disbursed by the Organ, 188*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

1666. For a book of cannons, 1*s.* 2*d.* For a booke for the fast daye.

Gave in beere to the Ringers for the victory at sea, 2*s.*

For setting up the canopie over the organ, 5*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

For candles for Squib to see to ring four and eight, 1*s.*

For 57 dozen of Sparrowes, 4*s.* 9*d.*

Mr. Lines gift for 2 years, 4*l.*, expended in work and materials for 11 coats for poor people, which cost 3*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*

“The odd penny wch. remained we gave to a poore body.”

1668. Sir J. Rogers' gift of 5*l.* for the Organ is disposed of by putting his arms on the 3 biggest pipes, “beautifying the king's arms on the topp of the organ in gold,” and other work.

DATE

1669. For putting up the rope for the Spire-bell and raising the bell to see how he was, 2s. 6d.

For taking up the greate Bell after his falling when y<sup>e</sup> Gudgeon broke, 10s.

For a polecatts head and half a dozen of Rooks heads, 6d.

For a buckett to fetch water for baptising Children cleane (?), when as before the Clarks were forct to borrow anything they could gett for that use, 1s.

Memorandum. May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1670. No leases are to be sealed except on the day of account at Barwicks Tombe.

1670. Receipts for the hearse, 2s., and pulpit cloth, 2s. at funerals.

For taking some stones down from the speare, 1s. 6d.

Mr. Hayward of Bath for work about the Organ, 3l.

1675. Paid for the young trees in the Churchyard, and for setting them, 10s.

— for cutting the mallows in the Church-yard, 1s. 6d.

— for making Thomas Barratt a pair of sliders, and for mending his coat, 8d.

1676. Paid for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a dousen of beere, 6d.

A set of resolutions passed in 1676.

1. A complaint that the Ch.-wardens spend too much money.

2. That “whereas the Church is at present in greate decay,” they appoint some persons to examine and allow or disallow the Churchwardens’ charges.

3. That no leases shall be granted except for 7 years and at an annual rent, and publicly at the parish meeting.

4. That driving of carts and beasts through the Churchyard is to be stopped, and window breakers punished.

5. That a rate is to be made for the repairs of the Church.

6. That that those ringers who are employed at knells and weddings ring “all in” gratis as in ancient times.

7. That burning of candles on the fifth of November, being used in no parish else, and being a great and unnecessary charge, to the spoile of the seats of the church, shall be utterly abolished.

8. That a table of the fees of the official’s court shall be set up in the Consistory.

## II.

*The following record of lands and houses belonging to the Church, is inserted in the book of accounts under the year 1663. It seems to be part of a general process of setting things straight, which became necessary after the troubles of the Great Rebellion. The list is interesting in itself, and may become valuable ; it is therefore given here entire.*

A PARTICULAR OF SUCH LEASES AND ESTATES AS ARE GRANTED  
BY THE CH.-WARDENS, AND WHERE THE LANDS DO LIE.

## DATE

1663. Cox, Peter, holdeth one tenement being the signe of the Angell adjoining to the Churchyard at the east end thereof, for 21 years, rent per annum 1*l*.  
Also the fayres at Pemphill, for 21 years, if he live so long, rent 14*s*.  
Bartlett, Richard, holdeth one tenement in Wymborne Minster, for 21 years, rent 14*s*.  
Bulpin, William, holdeth the Chappell at Kingston, one tenement, orchard, garden, and lands, for 21 years, rent 1*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*.  
Barnard, Richard, holdeth one tenement adjoyning the said Richard Bartlett's tenement, for 21 years, rent 1*l*.  
Ffeild, Walter, holdeth one tenement adjoyning to the Church-yard, rent 1*l*. 2*s*.  
Lewen, Dorothy, widow, holdeth one tenement on the west side of the Church, rent 10*s*.  
Lovell, Thomas, holdeth one tenement adjoyning to the east side of the Church-yard, rent 1*l*.  
Purches, James, holdeth one tenement with a Kitchen, stable, garden, and backside in Wymborne Minster, lying on the north side of the Towne Hall, rent 2*l*.  
Parham, Nicholas, holdeth one dwelling house adjoyning on the north part of the Church-yard, rent 1*l*.  
Pope, Nicholas, sen<sup>r</sup>, for erecting of a chimney on part of the Church-yard, rent 4*d*.  
Orchard, Hugh, holdeth one tenement, backside, and garden lying in the Burrough of Wymborne Minster, neere Walford Bridge, rent 1*l*.

## DATE

1663. Russell, Richard, sen<sup>r</sup>, holdeth one outhouse and garden lying in Eastbrooke, rent 10s.

Squibb, Nicholas, holdeth one tenement and garden on the west side of the Churchyard, rent 1l.

Tayler, Phillepp, Clerke, holdeth one dwelling house neere the Cookrow, rent 1l. 13s. 4d.

Tilsed, Giles, widow, for a chimney on the Ch.-yard, rent 1s. 4d.

Thedam (?), Hellen, widow, holdeth one dwelling house, neere the Cookrow, rent 1l. 13s. 4d.

Weare, John, holdeth a ham or piece of meadow called Churchmoore, containing two acres, lying in or neere Little Canford, rent 2l.

An acre of meadow in Netherwood called the Bell-acre, sold this year at 1l. 10s.\*

Memorandum. 1. That the house called the Angel was bequeathed by Mary Gundry in trust for the Church to Richard Swayne of Gunville, Esq. and his heirs. (The will is dated 1617, a copy of it dated 1626 is in this book.)

2. That King Henry the VII<sup>th</sup> by letters patent dated 1496 granted to the Churchwardens and parish two fayres to be kept at Pemphill yearly, one on S<sup>t</sup> Thomas the Martyr's day, the other on S<sup>t</sup> Luke's day, at the rent of 6s. 8d. to be paid to the said king, his heirs and successors.

3. Symon Beneson, Sacrisen of the Colledge Church and the King's free Chappell of Wymborne Minster, anno 1540, did in presence of Doctor Wilson, Deane of Wymborne, devise, give, and freely grant unto the Churchwardens all the profits belonging to the ringing of the Bells, with one acre of meadow lying in Netherwood, called the Bell-acre, which hath byn always appertaining to the maintenance of the said Bells.

4. The speare of the Church was repaired A. D. 1594, and in 1608 a rate of 429l. 10s. 10d. was raised for the reedifying of the ruynes of the Church.

5. In 1533 a pair of organs were set up by John Vaucks, and paid for by the parish.

\* This expression probably means only that it was let for the year to the highest bidder. See a resolution passed in 1653, p. 121. This acre is still the property of the Church.



## III.

THE PRESENTMENT OF THE CHURCHWARDENS OF WIMBORNE  
MINSTER FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD GOD, 1629.

## Article :

1. Imprimis, according to the articles which we are . . . .  
that our ministers did the last yeare . . . . church,  
and that we or some of us have . . . . the book of  
Homilyes for our church . . . .
2. Item we present that we know no person of this . . . .  
year impugne any of the articles of Religion . . . .  
Church of England.
3. Item we present that our Ministers the last year did usually  
the King's Ma<sup>ty</sup> that now is, and for all other persons  
in . . . mentioned as we believe.
- 4, 5. Item we present that we know no person of this parish  
that did the last year speak against the Rites and Cere-  
monies of the Church of England, or the government  
thereof.
6. Item we know none of this parish that did the last year lie  
lurking and tippling in Inns or Alehouses upon the Sab-  
bath day in time of divine prayers, but such as have been  
formerly presented in this court, or at the Sessions as we  
now remember.
7. Item we present that for ought we know to the contrary,  
that our Ministers the last year did observe the prescript  
form of divine service, and other the things mentioned in  
this article.
8. Item we present Henry Lock of this parish for using rude  
and immodest speeches in the Churchyard, against Mr.  
Henry Bradstocke, one of the Church-wardens aforesaid.
9. Item we present that we know none of this parish but that  
did the last year use humble reverence in time of divine  
service: but there were divers persons of this parish which  
at the first and second lessons did use to wear their hats.
10. Item we present that against every communion in our  
Church the last year the said Churchwardens, or one of  
them, did cause a sufficient quantity of bread and wine to  
be provided for the communicants.

- 12,13, 14. Item we present that the last year in every first Sunday of every month, there was usually a communion in our Church; and that every parishioner might have had received the same thrice with the least. And that as far as we know our ministers did not give it to any but to such as kneeled at the receiving thereof, nor to any notorious offenders or schismatics, nor did admit to it any strangers.
- 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. Item we present that (for aught we know to the contrary) our Ministers the last year did observe the 15, 16, and 17 Articles, and that the 18, 19, 20, and 21 were likewise observed according to their several contents.
22. Item we present Francis Gardner and Margaret his wife for suffering their child the last year to be baptised at home by some popish person, and not by any of our Ministers, as we are informed.
23. Item we present that to our knowledge there were not any private meetings or conventicles the last year in our parish tending to faction or schism.
25. Item we present that our Ministers the last year did usually in reading divine prayers and administering the sacraments wear their surplices, but not their hoods, nor catechise every Sunday, which was formerly presented.
- . . . . That our ministers the last year did observe the 26—33 articles: and that the last year there was not in our church a register-book in parchment, but in paper, as our Ministers informed us.
- . . . . That the last year our Ministers did usually wear decent apparel: for aught we know to the contrary.
- . . . . That we believe there is a free Grammar School in . . . and that the schoolmaster thereof did the last year observe the contents of the 36 Article.
- Item we present that the things required by the 37 and 38 Articles are in our Church, and there used accordingly, for aught we know to the contrary.
39. Item we present that our Church and the Leads thereof are much decayed, and (for aught we know) that there is not in it a sure coffer and 3 Locks and 3 Keys to it for safe keeping of our register-book. And that our Church and Churchyard are not well kept; for our church was much abused by childrens' playing in it and defiling it;

and that the Churchyard was often turned and moynd up by pigs the last year.

- 40, 41, 42. Item we present that as we, or some of us, have been informed, there have been in our parish three dwelling-houses for our ministers for the time being: and that the last year 2 of the said houses were not inhabited by them by reason they were decayed. And that as we are likewise informed, the Corporation of this parish are the Patrons and Receivers of the Tithes thereof, and that they ought to repair the said houses. And that the said Tithes to be taken in kind are worth £400 per annum: and that we have no Terrier or record of Glebe Land to our knowledge.
43. Item we present that the last year, as we are informed, Mrs. Trender died, and bequeathed by her will to our Church twenty shillings, and that Mr. Thomas Trender should pay the same, he being her executor. And that likewise Henry Roles and John Sanders have given several legacies to the Church by their several wills; but how much we know not, nor have we received any part thereof.
44. Item we present these persons hereafter mentioned to be popish Recusants the last year, as we are informed: viz<sup>t</sup> Richard Hookey and his wife, Anne the wife of James Fabian, (and twenty-one others:) also Amy Lewen and Mary Lewen. These two last named were the daughters of Mr. Anthony Lewen deceased, as we are informed: but whether they both, or either of them, are of the age of 16 years or more or less we know not, but they lived with Mr. Robert Lewen one of the said Churchwardens.
- 45, 46, 47. Item we present that our Ministers are Preachers, and sufficiently qualified, and that they did labour the last year to reclaim our popish recusants, and that our popish recusants did refuse to have conference with them, as we believe: and that we know not how many of them were excommunicated, nor how long they have so remained, nor how long they have been popish recusants.
48. Item we present that we the Churchwardens and sidesmen were chosen, as we believe, by the consent of one of our ministers (?) and parishioners.
49. Item we present Mr. Henry Hanham of this parish for not receiving the Holy Communion the last year, as we are credibly informed. And for the other not communi-

cants we refer ourselves to the presentment of our ministers for the last year, because we were not informed whom they have presented, or whom they have not. And that we verily believe that the third part of our parishioners which are above sixteen years old did not three times a piece receive the Holy Communion, nor upon every Sunday and Holiday come to Church to divine prayers the last year.

Item we present that as we verily believe neither of these persons hereafter mentioned were the last year at our Church at divine prayers upon Sundays and Holidays twelve times: viz<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Edward Lovell, M<sup>r</sup> Eustace Moone, John Fforrest the Miller, Henry Fforrest the Tinker, (and 13 others.)

50. Item we present that Nicholas Pope and Nicholas Addams were the last year accounted our parish clarks: and that they are above twenty years old a piece, and that we know no person that have detained their wages.

Item we present Nicholas Pope and Nicholas Addams aforesaid, but especially Nicholas Addams for being absent from divine prayers upon Sundays and Holidays, and going from prayers and Sermon when they were present; but they say that they serve in turn: and that out of their turn they may as they hope follow their trades. And that we believe that when they were chosen, it was by such as was then Minister or Ministers of this parish.

51, 52, 53. Item we present that we, or one of us, did the last year buy the prohibited degrees of marriage, and caused them to be set up in our Church. And that to our knowledge there was none of this parish which did the last year keep company with any other at bed and board which have been heretofore divorced. And that our Ministers did use the prescribed form of thanksgiving to women after childbirth: and that they did observe likewise the 53 Article for aught we know to the contrary.

54. Item we present that the last year Edeth Miller alias Bartlett was a notorious lewd and incontinent person: and Humfrye Burd and his wife, Oliver Dole and his wife, and John Sandye and his wife, for living continently together before marriage, as we have been credibly informed. Item we present John Fforest and John Sciviant afore-

said to be blasphemers of the sacred name of Almighty God, and common and usual swearers.

55. Item we present that Henry Baker, as we have heard, did harbour and receive a woman begot with child out of wedlock, and suffered her to depart without punishment; but what the woman's name is, or whether it was the last year we do not know; but as we, or some of us, have heard the said Baker hath been already presented for this offence.
- 56, 57, 58. Item we present that we do not certainly know of any person of this parish that did the last year offend against any of the 56, 57, and 58 Articles.
- 59, 60. Item we present for ought we know to the contrary, that our Ministers did the last year go in perambulation or procession with divers of our parishioners, and that the 5 day of August and the 5 day of November were kept holydays as the law directs.
61. Item we present that there are divers persons of our parish which do sit in many seats which have no right to sit in them, according to the custom of this parish, (as we verily believe.) And that there sits many men and women together which are not husband and wife: And that many times our bells have been abused, and the ropes thereof torn and spoiled by careless and unskilful ringers: And that our clock and chimes seldom goes true: And lastly, which we deem to be worst of all, that our church and the seats thereof have been often beastly abused and profaned by uncivil children and other rude people; these abuses we conceive to be offensive to God, and which we are bound to present; and therefore we desire they may be reformed.

Churchwardens { Henry Bradstocke.

Sidesmen {

## IV.

*Copy of a Letter from Mr. Albert Way respecting the Fresco-Paintings found on the wall at the East end of the South Aisle of the Chancel of Wimborne Minster.*

Feb. 1856.

\* \* \*

“IT is a pity that the paintings should be destroyed, but I do not know how such imperfect works of art are to be retained in our churches, and the exposure to air soon injures them. I think there can be no doubt as to the subjects of the two groups. They are, I am persuaded, from the legend of the Virgin: but the iconoclasts have left us very little to guide us.

“In the upper compartment we have part of the assemblage of mourning Apostles expecting her death: they were miraculously assembled round her death-bed. John, who was preaching at Ephesus, was conveyed in a cloud, and the other Apostles dispersed over the world were brought to her dwelling. You will, perhaps, think it a bold guess to say this was the scene portrayed, of which four figures in solemn grief alone remain. But I have no doubt from its juxtaposition with the subject of the bearing the corpse, and from the usual treatment of these incidents in the legend of the Virgin, so favorite a subject with middle age painters, that my conjecture is reasonable. The figure of the Virgin would, you remember, be that most obnoxious to the image-destroyer.

“In No. 3. we have evidently the imperfect subject of the body of our Lady carried by the Apostles to the valley of Jehoshaphat. The Jews hearing their chants on the way to the tomb, came out with rage, and threatened to burn the mother of the Impostor Jesus. One Jew, here a young man, but the golden legend says, the Chief Priest, raised his hands to throw over the Bier. They miraculously withered up and adhered to the side of the Bier; the Jew rolling in agony, he was miraculously cured by St. Peter. Such is the strange fable which you will find in the sculptures and paintings of the middle ages innumerable, but in England they were destroyed. The figures at Wimborne are not without merit, especially the heads.

“ALBERT WAY.”

## V.

*The Seals of Wimborne Minster.*

THE last edition of Hutchins's History contains drawings more or less correct of the Decanal seal, the seal of Brembre's Chantry, that of the Official, that of the Peculiar, and that of the Grammar-school; besides one or two private seals. The first of these, described as bearing an effigy of Edward the Confessor, has disappeared altogether. A similar fate has befallen the second, of which, however, excellent impressions can be procured; the next two are so modern and coarse as not to be worth engraving; and the last is still in use. Drawings of it and of the Chantry seal of the exact size of the originals, are given at page 57 of this work. The latter represents Saint Cuthberga, with book and pastoral staff, under an elaborate canopy. The former is more complicated, though much less delicately finished. It is of a lozenge shape, divided into an upper and lower triangle by a transverse band of inscription, in continuation of that which runs round the edge. The upper half contains a rude drawing of the church with the spire still standing, probably from the north-west, but the details are so clumsy that very little can be recognized. By the side of the church are the arms of England, quartered with the lilies of France. In the centre of the lower half sits the schoolmaster, wielding in his right hand the ensign of his authority, the birch. Rows of scholars are placed on each side, and in front of him is a boy saying his lesson; the boy stands facing the schoolmaster, and holds up an open book, which is represented above his head in order to bring it into view.

This seal is engraved and described in Vol. XII. of the Journal of the Archæological Association, page 70; where the writer, after inveighing, not without reason, against the inaccuracy of former representations, proceeds to fall into the funny mistake of describing the schoolmaster with the birch as Queen Elizabeth with an olive-branch! Moreover, the drawing of the seal is not quite so correct as the author seems to think it.

## VI.

*The Brass of King Ethelred.*

AN error has unfortunately crept into the description of this brass on page 7, the occasion of which demands explanation here. That description was committed to writing and printed off on the faith of an opinion expressed by a gentleman of the very highest authority on such matters. But after an inspection of the brass, when it was unfortunately too late to alter what had been said, it was manifest that the opinion in question was quite erroneous. The brass is in one piece, and has never been altered or etched over in any way; so that the imputation of fraud on its makers falls to the ground. It was probably made and placed on the tomb in the fourteenth century, and never pretended to be of any other date.

## VII.

*Miscellanea.*

A CONJECTURE hazarded on page 79, as to the possible date of the removal of the Font, is upset by the fact that this removal and final mutilation did not take place till twenty or thirty years ago, whatever might have happened to the Font in the seventeenth century.

In the note on page 84, the word Presbytery should have been used instead of Chancel, to prevent any misunderstanding. The part of the eastern limb occupied by the choir has always been well lighted. It is believed that some steps have been taken to remedy the defect noticed, but why any difficulty should exist about it is not sufficiently obvious.

The old chest mentioned as standing in the north choir-aisle has since been placed in the crypt.

There are now seventeen stained glass windows in the church, many of them of large size; besides the four windows of the crypt, and ten small clerestory lights in the choir, of grisaille pattern. The glass, which is of considerable merit, is by Willement, Lavers, Heaton and Butler, Gibbs, and others.

The clergy at the time of the restoration were the Rev. Henry Good, B.C.L., the Rev. Henry Parker Cookesley, M.A., and the Rev. Charles Onslow, M.A. The church-wardens, who performed willingly and well the considerable share of labour which



necessarily fell on them, were Mr. Edward Lewer, and Mr. John Holland. With the assistance of an excellent working committee, many of the difficulties which beset undertakings of this kind were smoothed over or otherwise surmounted.

The extracts from the accounts were in the first instance most kindly made for this work by the Rev. J. E. Jackson, Canon of Bristol, author of a splendid description of Doncaster Church. They have since been thoroughly revised and corrected, and have received many additions.

The Rev. J. L. Petit, author of many works on architecture, whose paper on Wimborne Minster in the Salisbury volume of the *Archæological Transactions* has been consulted for this work, has contributed four wood-cuts.

Mr. Wyatt, the architect engaged on the church, has given all the assistance in his power. The section opposite page 33 was prepared in his office with no small amount of trouble, by an excellent draughtsman, Mr. Clements.

Mr. Hopkins, the best known English authority on the organ, has given the chapter on that subject the great advantage of a revision by himself. Much of it will, of course, be uninteresting to the general reader, but it has been thought better to give a complete account, in spite of this disadvantage.

Every information has been afforded by Mr. Robson and Mr. Blount, who are necessarily better acquainted with the later history of this organ than any other person.

To the kindness of all these, and of many others who have befriended it in various ways, this work is greatly indebted; but to none more than the Rev. Charles Onslow, who has aided it by every means in his power, from the very commencement, and whose friendly interest in it is less to be wondered at, since to him more than to any one else is due the credit of having toiled unceasingly to bring to a worthy conclusion the great work of the restoration of the Minster.









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